

POPULAR

Alexis Smirnoff: "The Mad Russian"

WRESTLING

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Chief Peter Maivia Claims:
"I Can Beat Superstar Graham!"

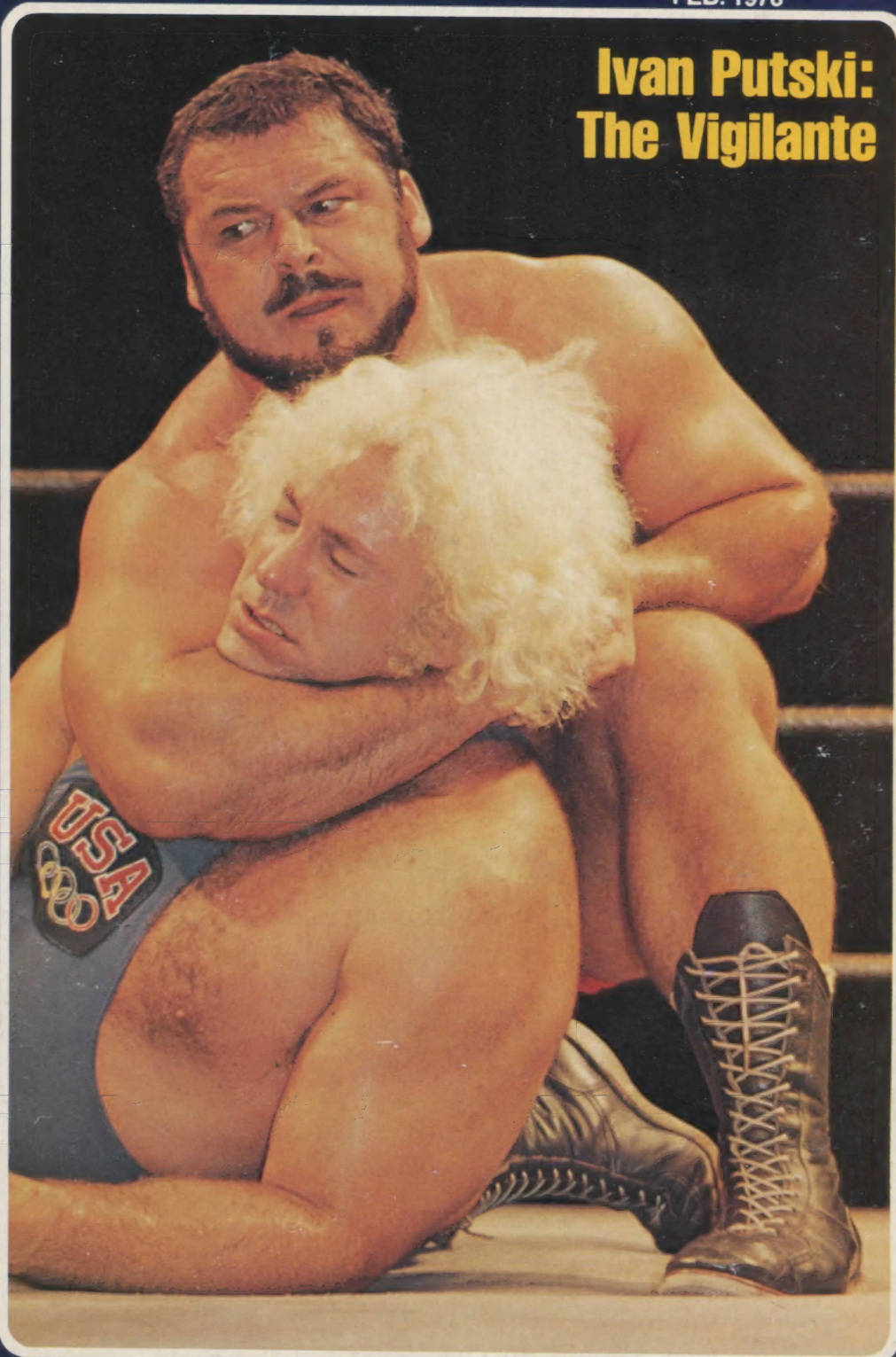
Should George "The Animal" Steele Be Banned From Wrestling?

Professor Toru Tanaka and Mr. Fuji:
The Samurai Connection

The New Good Guy Image Of Moondog Mayne

Killer Karl Krupp Complains:
"Referees Are Against Me"

Ivan Putski:
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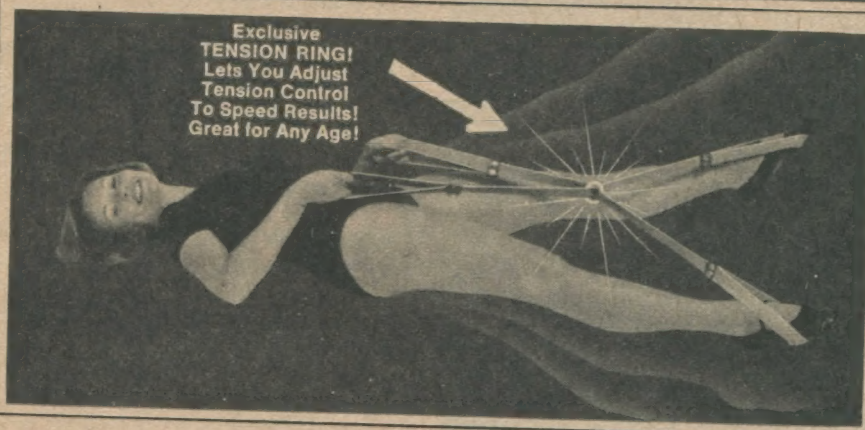
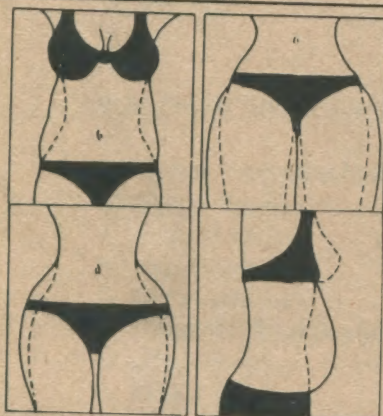
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POPULAR WRESTLING

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POPULAR RATINGS

WWWF

CHAMPION: SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM

1. Dusty Rhodes
2. Chief Peter Maivia
3. Chief Jay Strongbow
4. Ivan Putski
5. Prof. Toru Tanaka
6. Bruno Sammartino
7. Bob Backlund
8. Tony Garea
9. Stan Stasiak
10. Mr. Fuji

AWA

CHAMPION: NICK BOCKWINKLE

1. Super Destroyer
2. Verne Gagne
3. Angelo Mosca
4. Jim Brunzell
5. Chris Markoff
6. Cowboy Bob Duncum
7. Greg Gagne
8. Roger Kirby
9. Crusher
10. Lord Al Hayes

MANAGERS

1. The Grand Wizard
2. Bobby Heenan
3. Fred Blassie
4. Gary Hart
5. Roddy Piper
6. J.J. Dillon
7. Gerhardt Kaiser
8. Captain Lou Albano
9. Jim "Mr. Hollywood" Stafford
10. Arnold Skaaland

NWA

CHAMPION: HARLEY RACE

1. Dusty Rhodes
2. Jack Brisco
3. Ivan Koloff
4. Chavo Guerrero
5. Ox Baker
6. Pedro Morales
7. Jerry Oates
8. Ric Flair
9. Dick Slater
10. Chief Wahoo McDaniel

TAG TEAMS

1. Prof. Toru Tanaka-Mr. Fuji
2. Jim Brunzell-Greg Gagne
3. Jimmy Snuka-Gino Hernandez
4. Mysterious Medics
5. Black and Victor Gordman
6. Ivan Koloff-Pat Patterson
7. Gene-Ole Anderson
8. Jay-Rick Youngblood
9. Sam Bass-Jim Anson
10. Tony Garea-Larry Zbyszko

WOMEN

CHAMPION: FABULOUS MOOLAH

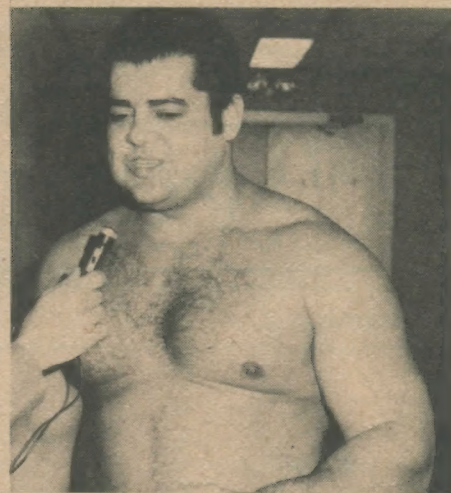
1. Anne Casey
2. Susan Greene
3. Vivian St. John
4. Sandy Parker
5. Penny Banner
6. Princess Winona Little Heart
7. Kitty Adams
8. Daisy Mae
9. Toni Rose
10. Sandy Partlow

WRESTLING CONFIDENTIAL

BY FRANK AMATO

It's splitsville for **BUDDY ROBERTS** and **JERRY BROWN**, known as The Hollywood Blonds. There is no animosity between the two. Roberts just decided he wanted to go his own way. This ends one of the best tag teams in pro wrestling . . . **CHAVO GUERRERO** lost the Jr. Light-heavyweight Title to **ALFONSO DANTES** . . . **DOUG SOMERS** captured the Central States Title in Texas . . . **DUTCH SAVAGE** took the Pacific Northwest Championship from **SAM BASS** . . . **DICK MURDOCH** has turned back to his old villainous ways and **SCANDOR AKBAR** is his manager . . . **JERRY OATES** upset **COWBOY BILL WATTS** for the North American Championship . . . **JIMMY SNUKA** and **GINO HERNANDEZ** won the Texas Tag Team Championship . . . **JOHNNY EAGLES** wrestling in the Mid-Atlantic areas . . . **CHIEF WAHOO McDANIEL** and **RICK FLAIR** still want each other's blood in Mid-Atlantic region . . . **CAPTAIN LOU ALBANO** has two new proteges in **PAUL "BUTCHER" VACHON** and a masked grappler called **THE GOLDEN TERROR**. Albano still

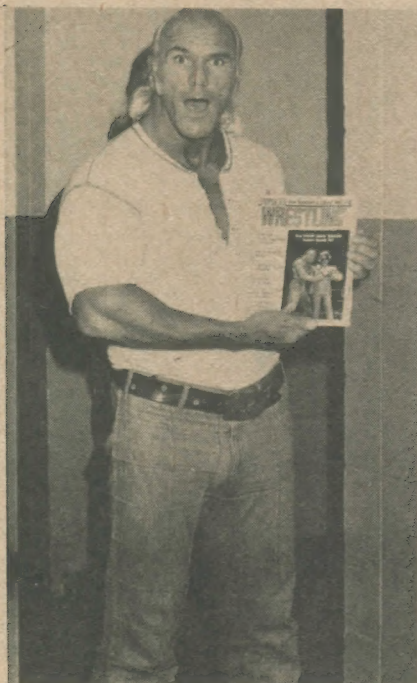
manages **KEN PATERA** in WWF rings . . . **DEAN HO'**, the happy Hawaiian, captured the U.S. Championship in the San Francisco Bay area . . . **J.J. DILLON** manages **ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER** in Texas. Butcher and **THE SHEIK** are enemies or friends as mood strikes them. Sheik, by the way, is feuding with **Ox Baker** in Texas. Who do fans cheer??? . . . **PEDRO MORALES** upset **PAT PATTERSON** for TV Trophy of Florida. Pistol Pete pinned Patterson after rough match . . . **BORIS MALENKO** manages **MASKED SUPERSTAR** in Carolinas . . . **DOMINIC DeNUCCI** won the International Heavyweight Championship of Canada . . . Has legendary great **KILLER KOWALSKI** called it a career? That is the word I've received. . . . **ROCKY JOHNSON** doing very well in Florida rings. He upset highly rated **IVAN KOLOFF** in less than one minute . . . **BIG BAD JOHN** back in Los Angeles areas causing trouble . . . **TOR KAMATA** has been called Killer by Japanese fans since his return there. Kamata is beating opponents easily, which makes



Pedro Morales tells Popular Wrestling how happy he was to win the TV Trophy from Pat Patterson.

manager **Fred Blassie** happy.

Due to serious neck injury from that **Swinging Neckbreaker** of **KEN PATERA**, which caused **CHIEF BILLY WHITE WOLF** to have an operation, Billy could not defend his half of the WWF World Tag Team Championship. So the WWF commission, under president **Willy Gilzenberg**, made the decision that **CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW** must give up the title belts. It was also decreed that the top two tag teams, **TONY GAREA** and **LARRY ZBYZSKO**, and **PROF. TORU TANAKA** and **MR. FUJI**, will go against each other for the title . . . **NWA Heavyweight Champion HARLEY RACE** was held to a draw by Fijian mat ace **JIMMY SNUKA** in Oregon . . . **TOM JONES** and



WWF Champion Superstar Billy Graham just loved being on the cover of our last issue of Popular Wrestling. Above: Frank Amato, columnist for Popular Wrestling, gets the word from popular Gino Hernandez.



Korean Pak Song, when he held the Florida Belt. Pak has returned to Florida and wants the title back.



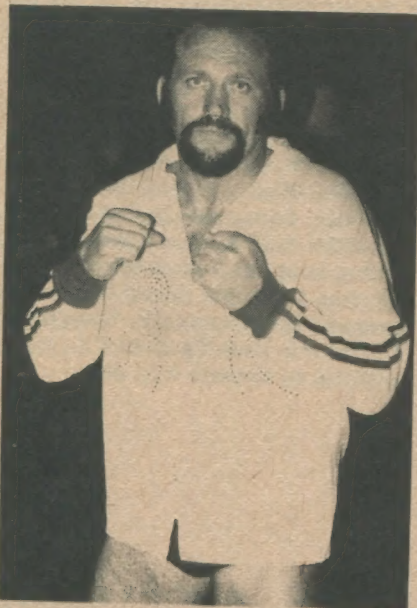
Killer Tor Kamata and manager Fred Blassie are pleased that Kamata has been beating opponents in Japan.

MANDO GUERRERO still hold the Americas Tag Team Title. Samoan CHIEF PETER MAIVIA handed WWF World Champion SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM his first defeat, even if only by a countout. AWA World Champion NICK BOCKWINKLE kept his title safe in challenges from JIM BRUNZELL; GREG GAGNE and BILLY ROBINSON. ANTONIO INOKI retained his NWF title in bout with ANDRE THE GIANT in Japan. THE ASSASSIN has declared his Headbutt much better than PORKCHOP CASH and RAY CANDY

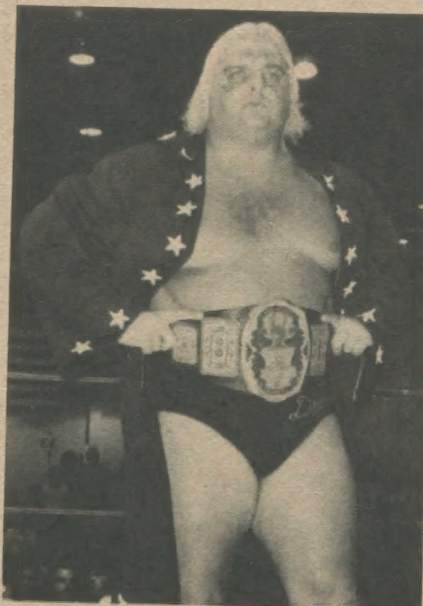
in Oklahoma territory. PAK SONG, the Korean giant, invading Florida. The MYSTERIOUS MEDICS still reign as North American Tag Team Champs. ... TEXAS RED, the masked grappler, captured the Americas Championship from MANDO GUERRERO. IVAN PUTSKI beat GEORGE "THE ANIMAL" STEELE in Steel Cage match in Baltimore, Md. LARS ANDERSON, youngest brother of GENE and OLE ANDERSON, has brought his villainous ways to Florida. DANNY HODGE, who retired from

pro mat wars because of an injury, now in the used car business. WOODY FARMER doing well out Arizona way. JOSE GONZALES giving fans something to cheer about down in Puerto Rico. RODDY PIPER, the wrestler-manager, has won the Jules Strongbow Scientific Trophy from CHAVO GUERRERO. Piper also took TV Title from TOM JONES.

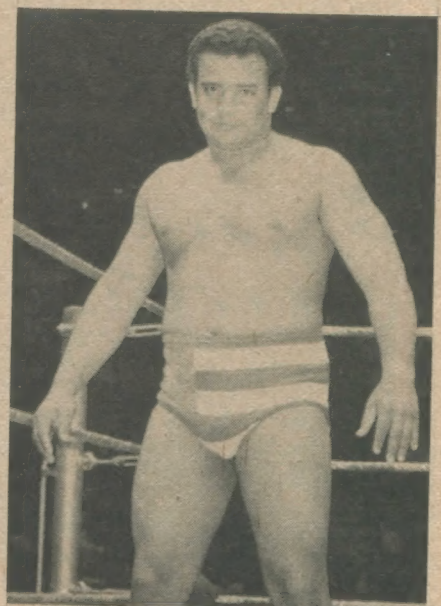
NWA Champion HARLEY RACE turned back title bid of former champion DORY FUNK, Jr. DICK SLATER took the important Missouri State Title from JACK



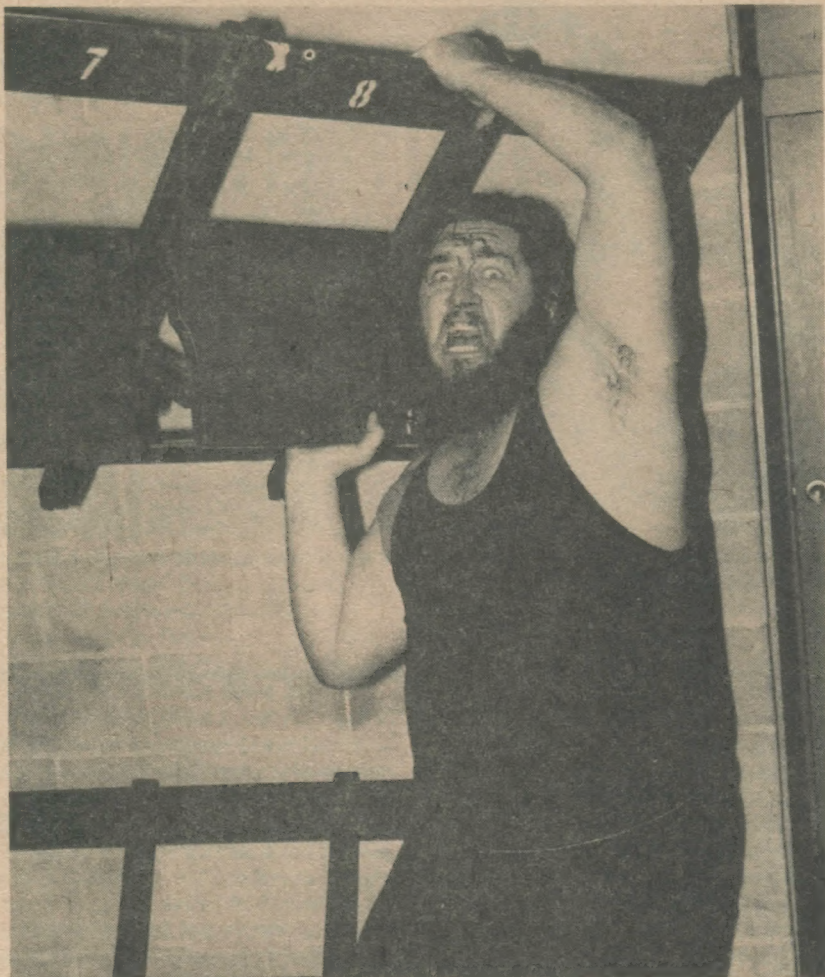
Danny Hodge, when he was an active wrestler. Danny, who is now retired because of an injury, sells used cars.



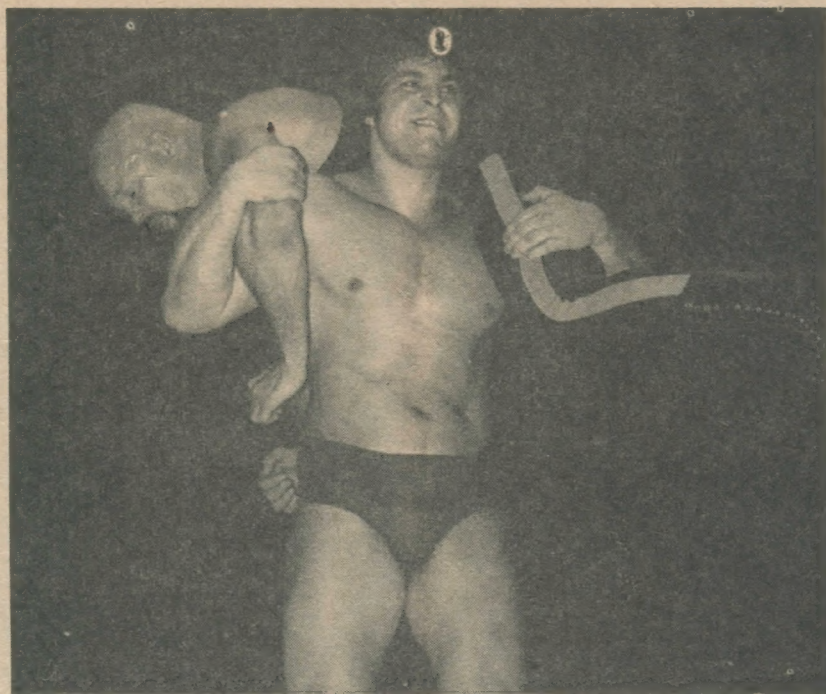
Dusty Rhodes, the American Dream, had his victory over Harley Race nullified by officials, because he used the ropes.



Jose Gonzales, the mat ace from Puerto Rico, is on that island now and the fans there are cheering him loudly.



Big, Bad John is back in Los Angeles causing trouble.



Dino Bravo, with Italian Airplane Spin on opponent. Dino is doing well in Mid-Atlantic areas.

BRISCO PAT PATTERSON and IVAN KOLOFF still have the Florida State Tag Team Championship ... WWWF Champion SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM has been defending his title in NWA areas. Graham has defeated such mat stars as JACK BRISCO; JOS LeDUC; STEVE KEIRN and HANDSOME JIMMY VALIANT Former mat star BUDDY COLT now doing referee chores in Florida. Buddy, you may remember, had his mat career cut short in plane crash which took the life of BOBBY SHANE a few years back Popular young wrestler BOB BACKLUND doing triple chores in WWWF; NWA and AWA areas. Bob says, "I think I can win any of the three major titles. So, watch out, Graham, Bockwinkle and Race." TONY MARINO doing well in Florida rings. Tony's not a villain or hero. He just uses a tough style IVAN KOLOFF still has that Southern Title he won from STEVE KEIRN. RICKY STEAMBOAT doing awfully well in Carolinas. Ricky is younger brother of SAM STEAMBOAT BRUNO SAMMARTINO failed to lift the WWWF title from SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM in four meetings! JIM BRUNZELL and GREG GAGNE hold the AWA World Tag Team Championship BRUISER and IVAN KOLOFF feuding in WWA areas RICK and JAY YOUNGBLOOD make great team in Pacific Northwest areas PROF. TORU TANAKA has left foot in cast from recent injury. This has kept that long-awaited title match from taking place. The cast is due to be removed VERNE GAGNE made a recent mat appearance in WWWF at Madison Square Garden, beating NIKOLAI VOLKOFF KEVIN SULLIVAN making his presence felt in Frisco areas SUPER DESTROYER wants a title match against AWA champ NICK BOCKWINKLE ALBERTO MADRILL doing well in Frisco rings DON MURACO seems to be getting rougher and rougher in matches since his throat injury at hands of IVAN KOLOFF. Says Don, "I want this Koloff's hide. I'll continue to wrestle this way,

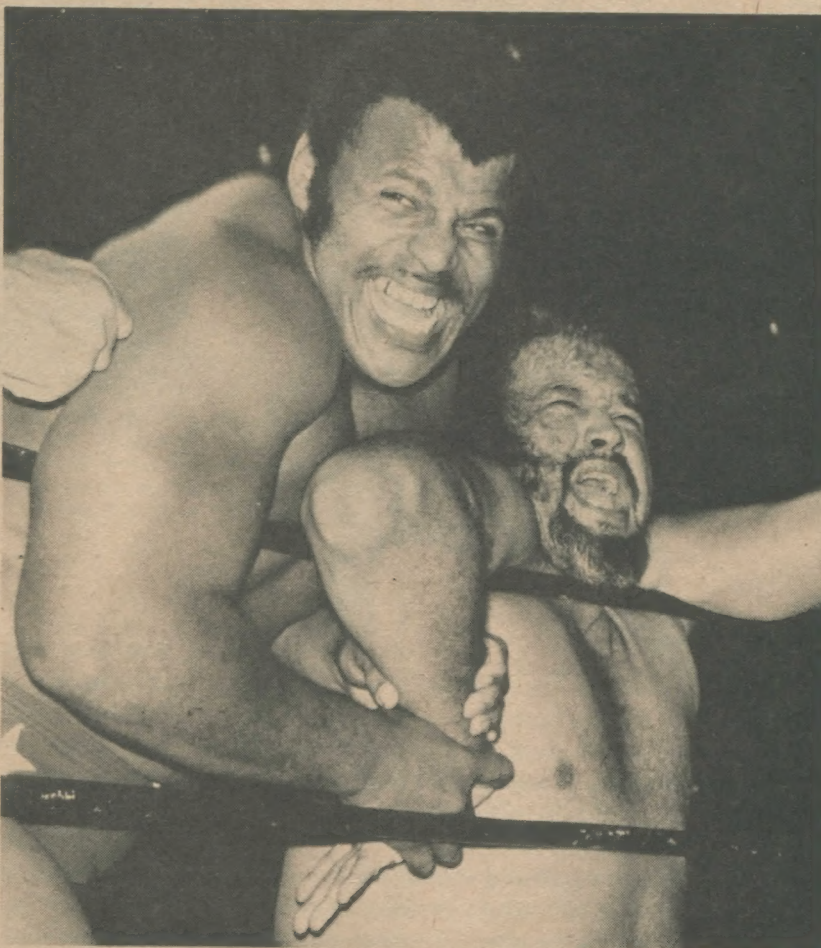
because this is only way Koloff understands."

GORGEOUS KEITH FRANKS has split with manager RODDY PIPER. The split has caused a vicious feud between them. Piper states, "That bum is ungrateful. I made him what he is and I'll destroy him. Where would he be without me?" STAN HANSEN is in Japan and feuding with ANTONIO INOKI. Hansen has caught on with fans there CARLOS COLON still the champ of Puerto Rico CHAVO GUERRERO recently won back the Americas belt from TEXAS RED TONY GAREA narrowly missed taking WWWF belt from SUPERSTAR GRAHAM at NASSAU Coliseum in Long Island, NY BLACK GORDMAN is teaming with his brother? Under a mask is VICTOR GORDMAN and they work well together. Does this mean the end of Black and GOLIATH as a team? By the time you read this, MIL MASCARAS will have wrestled for the first time in Nassau Coliseum By the way, those GORDMANS won the Americas tag team belts from TOM JONES and MANDO GUERRERO recently CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW and CHIEF PETER MAIVIA make a powerful team in the WWWF MASSA SAITO brought his oriental skills to Florida. . . . DUSTY RHODES thought he won the NWA belt from HARLEY RACE, but NWA officials viewed the film of that bout and saw Dusty place his feet on the ropes for leverage. NWA naturally turned the belt back over to Race DINO BRAVO and MR. WRESTLING II doing well in Mid-Atlantic areas, both singly and as team wrestlers CHAVO GUERRERO just won the TV title in Los Angeles LONNIE MAYNE tearing up rings in Oregon.

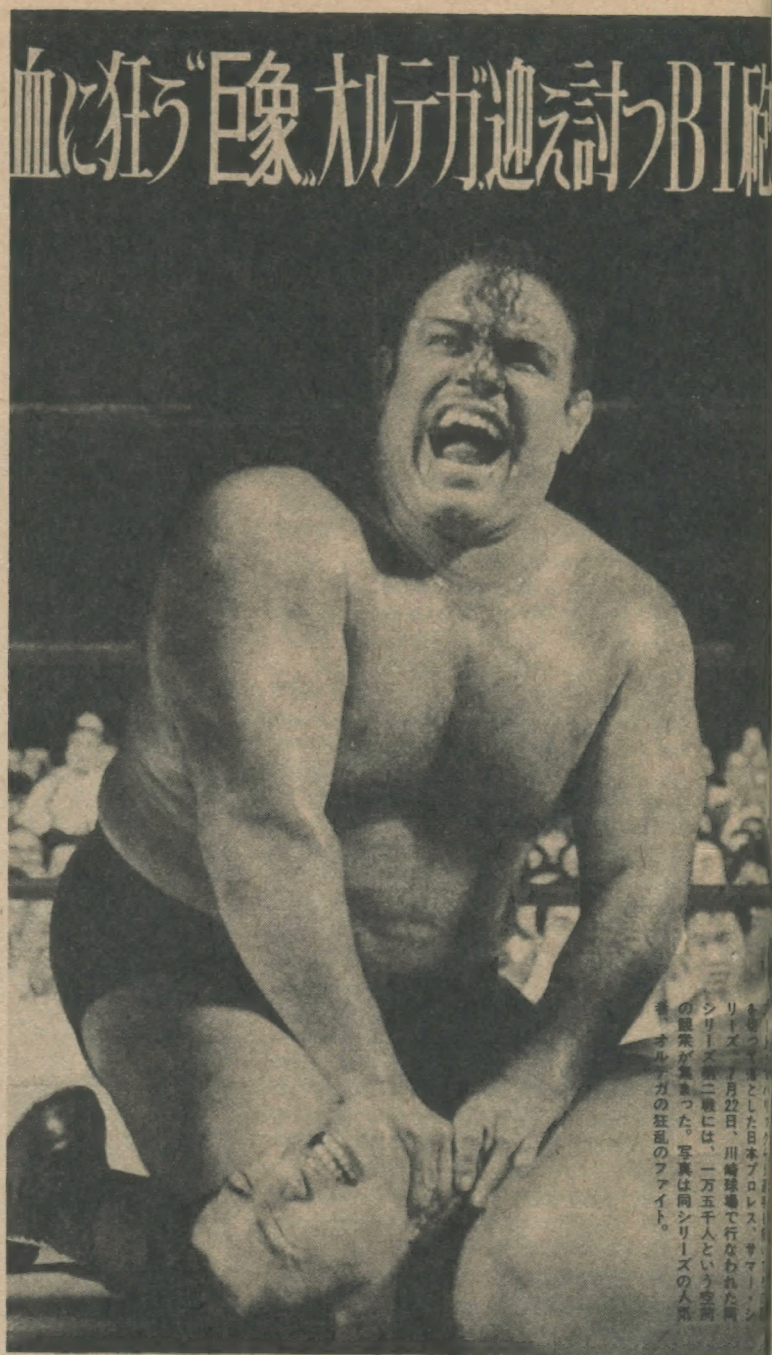
Well, wrestling fans, that ends another WRESTLING CONFIDENTIAL column for this issue. Please remember, I welcome any results from programs and newspaper clippings from your areas. All correspondence will be appreciated. Just send it to me in care of Popular Publications. Till next time, keep supporting the great sport of wrestling.



J.J. Dillon (above) is managing Abdullah the Butcher in Texas rings. Below: Rocky Johnson doing great in Florida. Here he makes King Curtis yell in pain.



A Tribute To Jesse Ortega



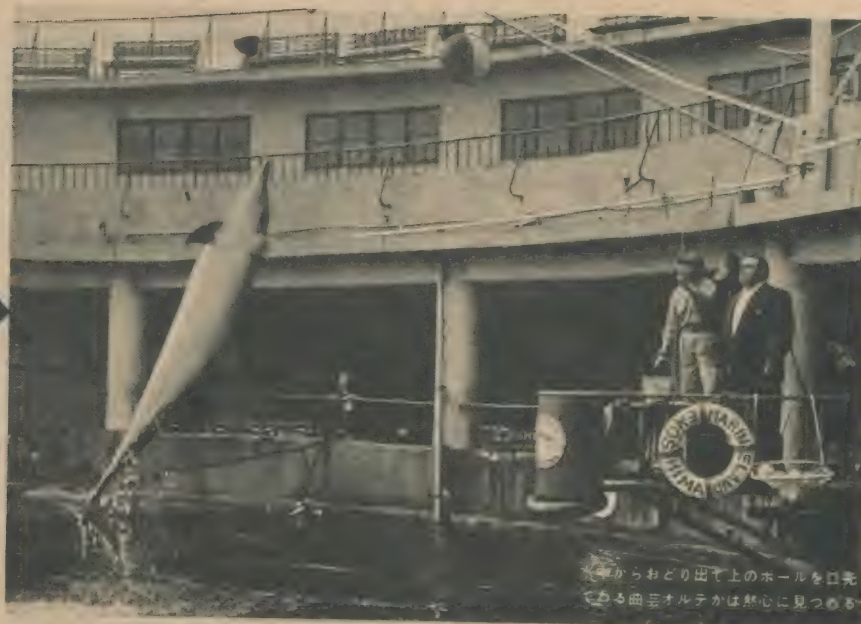
Left: Jesse Ortega in 1955, in Sumo wrestling costume. Above: Ortega in 1967 applies a hold to the neck of an opponent.

The pro wrestling world mourns the passing of Jesse Ortega, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, this past summer, of a heart attack.

A big man, with an enormous capacity for enjoying life and great capabilities in the wrestling ring, Jesse was always intolerant of the wrestler who would boast that he could break the arm or leg of an opponent. He

was once quoted as saying: "I like to do my talking in the ring, not outside the ring. When I say this, I mean that I like to just get in there and wrestle, and not stand around and talk about it. I hate a man who has a big mouth on him, and he will be the first one that I will challenge."

Jesse was a hard working family man, determined to give every endeavor his very best. As a mere youngster, he supported his family—his mother, his brothers Raul and Manuel, and his sister Lucy, when his father died. Employers loved the boy and helped in



Ortega was very popular in the Far East, particularly in Japan, where he was frequently written up in newspapers and magazines. Here he is shown on a trip to Osaka, Japan, in 1968.

every way. Jesse was very proud that his sister and brothers became very successful, and of his part in raising them. They were equally proud of him and never forgot that he gave up a normal childhood to help them.

Jesse's personality and character matched his size. He was emotional and sentimental. If his temper flared, it was short lived. He was honest, loyal, dependable, extremely thoughtful of others and you could count on him in any situation. He was always ready to help others and wanted nothing in return. He

never stopped learning and it was amazing how he could step into any line of work and be successful.

As a wrestler Jesse always gave his best—whether in a small-town arena with poor attendance or in Madison Square Garden, where he wrestled Antonino Rocca in 1953 and Bruno Sammartino in 1967.

Jesse Ortega was popular, not only in the United States, but also in Japan, Mexico, Canada and other countries around the world. He will be greatly missed by professional wrestling fans everywhere, by his family, and by all who loved him so very much.

A TRIBUTE TO JESSE ORTEGA





Opposite left: In the U.S. in 1959, Jesse Ortega lifts an opponent high in the air, applying some pressure to the man's back.

Upper left: Jesse vs. an opponent in 1967. Upper right: Jesse in 1963, with a Japanese admirer wearing Jesse's coat.

Left: Ortega entertains the Japanese fans. Lower right: A Japanese cartoon depicting Jesse.

A TRIBUTE TO JESSE ORTEGA



Calgary, Alberta, 1970: Jesse vs. Abdullah the Butcher

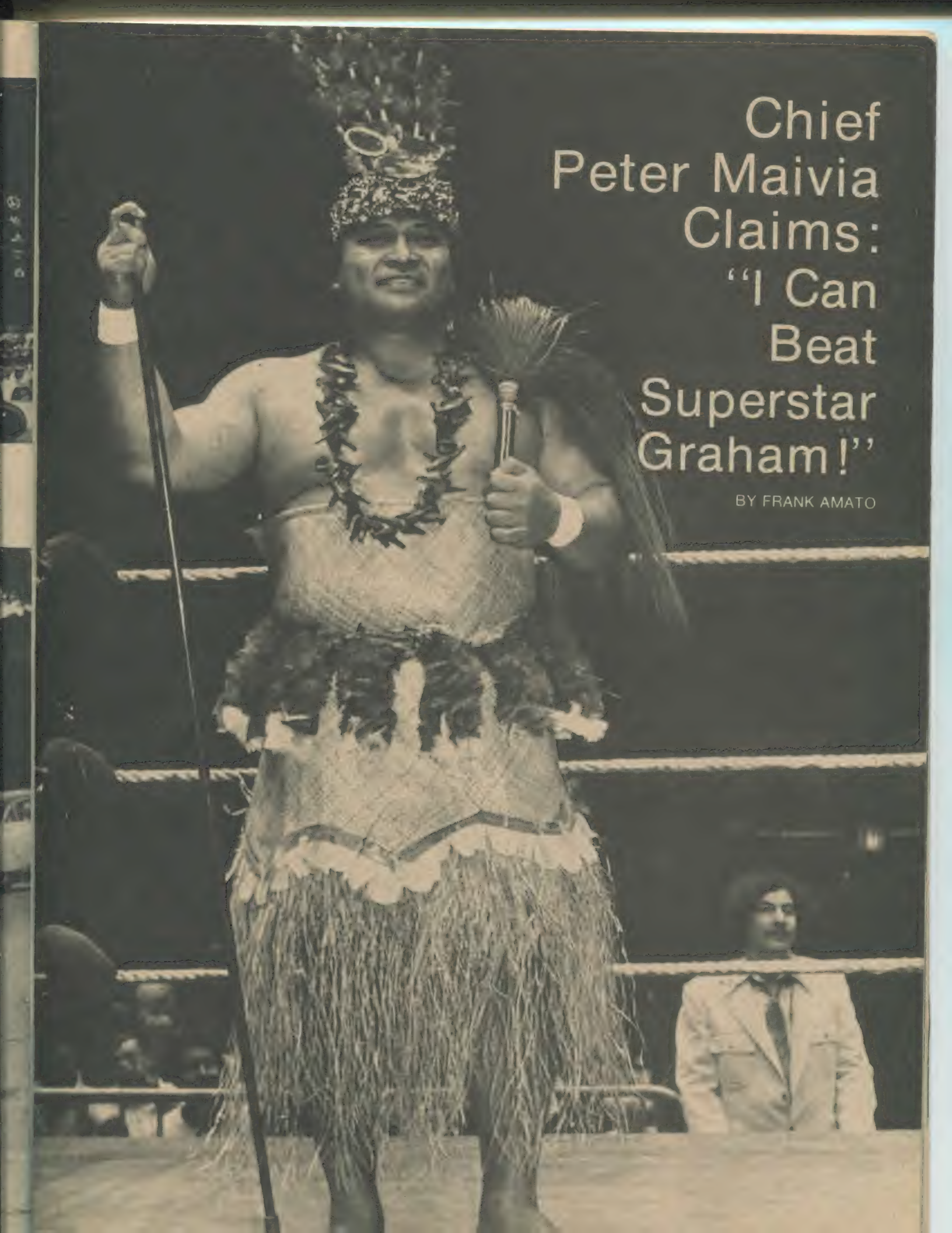
Below: Jesse lifting weights in Army camp in California, in 1940



Above: Ortega vs. an unidentified opponent in 1967

1954—West Coast Tag Team Champions Enrique Torres left and Jesse Ortega





Chief Peter Maivia Claims: “I Can Beat Superstar Graham!”

BY FRANK AMATO



Samoan High Chief Peter Maivia is a topflight wrestler of the WWF. Day after day, Maivia has been working on his wrestling holds and moves, perfecting them with just one objective in mind: to become the WWF World Champion.

BY
FRANK AMATO

High Chief Peter Maivia stood in center ring, a big smile on his face. His match was only minutes old, but so far the bout was all his. His opponent shook his head in utter frustration. He had tried basic holds which had all been countered by this great Samoan mat star.

Samoan Chief Peter Maivia kept smiling. He clapped his hands together and stomped his feet in rhythm. The fans quickly took up the clapping and foot stomping. The opponent charged and Maivia quickly sidestepped the move. Then Maivia hip-tossed his opponent, and when his opponent struggled to his feet, he did it again.

The opponent kicked the ropes in frustration. He tried an Armlock but Maivia quickly turned the hold around into an Armbar. Maivia twisted the other man's arm and brought him down. Then he worked on the arm till it turned red. Chief Maivia let the arm go and switched to a leg, twisting the leg and making his opponent yowl in pain.

Now the Samoan worked on the other leg. He was making it look very easy. The other man grew desperate. He eye-gouged Maivia, then started to punch and kick away. The Chief tried to shake away the pain. He lashed out with a punch of his own. Two quick chops brought down the

Left: Wearing one of his Samoan costumes, High Chief Peter Maivia starts the chanting for his fans. Below: Maivia delivers a powerful right to the face of Baron Mikel Scicluna.



opponent.

Now Maivia was mad. Two Body-slams sent shudders down the back of his opponent. Then Maivia smiled once again. He grabbed his opponent by the hair, and using his head, connected for a Samoan Coco Butt. Down went the opponent, not moving. Maivia covered for the pin and the victory.

The wrestling fans cheered the Maivia victory. They know top talent when they witness it. They love class and Chief Peter Maivia has that. Maivia waved his arms in a gesture of victory and the fans cheered louder.

Back in his dressing room, High Chief Peter Maivia of Samoa wore a wide grin. He spoke quietly, with a deep voice, "I love the fans. Aren't they magnificent? I love wrestling fans the world over. When they cheer you on, it gives me a grand feeling of accomplishment. I value the friendship of fans.

"You know, when the fans cheer me when I'm wrestling, it gives me the strength to continue. To do better. If things are not going my way, those cheers push me to give my best to pull out the victory. I pray the fans will always cheer me."

So far in the WWWF areas, High Chief Peter Maivia has become a leading contender for the WWWF title held by Superstar Billy Graham. Maivia has wrestled Graham for the title three times with three different endings. Says Maivia, "My first match with Graham I won on a countout, when Graham refused to re-enter the ring. He did this on purpose, although he tried to make it look as if he couldn't make it back. I know differently. Another match, the time ran out. Another time, we were both disqualified. I can honestly say I can beat Graham. He knows this, too. He's been lucky so far, but his luck will run out soon.

"I don't take anything away from Graham. He's strong. He's fast. He's very knowledgeable. He capitalizes on mistakes. But I feel I'm stronger than he. I think I'm faster than he. I have more ring experience. Graham is the WWWF champion only because he pulled a sneaky trick which worked. I know, if I ever won a title match under such controversial circumstances, I wouldn't accept the belt. I really wouldn't want that belt unless it was a clear victory. I have my pride.

One of the major issues in wrestling centers on whether a champion should be allowed to keep his title if he continues to get himself disqualified or counted out on purpose. Should the belt be awarded to an opponent if the champion persists in that manner?

Continued on page 64

Chief Peter Maivia removes his costume seconds before his match. Maivia has a wide variety of Samoan costumes.





Ivan Putski: The Vigilante



Ivan Putski squeezes the head of Japanese mat star Tor Kamata.

BY FRANK AMATO

The man doesn't belong in this day and age. This is the jet age, the swinging seventies. Ivan Putski was born too late. He belongs back in a time when there was chivalry. When roving knights in shining armor rode valiant chargers. These knights saved young damsels in distress. They protected the mighty kingdoms for their kings." This comment came from the Grand Wizard.

Wizard continued, "Poor Ivan Putski must have read too many books about King Arthur's Knights of the Roundtable. He thinks he's one of them. Putski sticks his nose into things that don't concern him. He's going to get it chopped off but soon."

All five feet, ten inches, and 280 pounds of Ivan Putski have been in the thick of things in the WWWF from the time he entered that area in 1975. The powerful Super Pole, as he is called, has met the very best in the WWWF. Ivan does not care whom he wrestles, but they dare not try any rough tactics. Those who do find

Ivan Putski is a man with a mission. He wants to rid professional wrestling of its villains and rulebreakers . . . And he won't rest until he does.

Putski packs a powerful punch against vicious Baron Fritz Von Raschke.



themselves tasting Ivan's Polish Hammer.

Ivan Putski has yet to shy away from any challenge hurled his way. In fact, he looks forward to meeting those who think they can break the rules and brag about it. He looks forward to showing rulebreakers, who try to hurt his friends and brag about it, what they are in for.

Ivan says, "It makes me mad to see rulebreakers hurt my friends with illegal tactics. They do this with pleasure. They do this not to win, but to hurt my fine buddies. They laugh how they hurt my friends. Well, I don't like this one bit. When they hurt my friends, they hurt me."

Why has Ivan Putski become a one-man vigilante committee? Why does he take it upon himself to right

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Above: Ivan Putski uses his powerful legs for a Legscissors on Baron Von Raschke. Below: Von Raschke reels from the onslaught of Putski's two-fisted attack.





Above: (upper photo) Putski gives Ken Patera a free ride with an Armwhip.
(lower photo) Putski prepares to give Stan Stasiak a taste of his fist.

Killer Karl Krupp Complains: "The Referees Are All Against Me"

Not a favorite with the fans, his opponents, or referees, Killer Karl Krupp claims that he is being discriminated against by the officials, because he is German. The referees argue that he violates the rules with his vicious tactics.

Story by Tom McDauid

Photos by Don DeLeon

The irate fans were screaming, booing, waving their arms. Some were even throwing foreign objects into the ring. The foreign objects were aimed at one wrestler in particular. He heard the boos, the jeers and the screams. He could care less. He was intent on destroying his opponent. He was well on his way to success.

Killer Karl Krupp from Berlin, Germany tasted victory. He was on his knees and his right hand was placed over the face of his opponent. Krupp's large fingers covered the forehead. This is Krupp's pet submission hold—his Brain Claw. It has brought him many victories and championships.

The vicious German was smiling now. The smile took on a sardonic appearance. Almost heinous. Killer Karl Krupp fastened his Brain Claw about the forehead. He squeezed and squeezed. His opponent began to writhe in pure agony. The fans were screaming for the referee to stop the action and save Krupp's opponent from further injury.

Now blood could be seen between the long fingers of Krupp. The Brain Claw had broken the skin along the forehead of the opponent. Upon seeing the blood, Krupp's smile grew wider. He was enjoying his moment of glory.

The opponent had stopped writhing in pain. His body had become limp. The referee raised the arm of his opponent, who was now seemingly unconscious. The arm fell to the mat, limp. The match was over. Killer Karl Krupp had won.

The referee told Krupp to release the Brain Claw. But Krupp continued squeezing the forehead. Blood now completely covered the face of the unconscious opponent. The referee warned Krupp to release the hold. Krupp seemed oblivious to the warnings of the referee. Now the referee started counting. When the count reached four, Krupp still had his Brain Claw clamped on the forehead. Finally the referee signaled for the bell. Only then did Krupp release the hold.

The ring was full of foreign objects. Many fans crowded around the ring. Fans were shouting profanities at Krupp, who just kept smiling his evil grin. He did a German Goosetep, his arm raised, with his fingers spread out, emphasizing his Brain Claw.

Then the referee spoke to the announcer who entered the ring. The announcer then spoke into the microphone. "Due to Krupp's not heeding the warnings of the referee, this match is given to his opponent by default. Killer Karl Krupp has been disqualified."

Now Krupp stopped smiling. He stared incredulously at the announcer and then at the referee. He rushed over to the referee and yelled in German. The referee yelled right back. The German, at 6'4" and 280 pounds, towered over the referee. Then Krupp pushed the official hard, nearly knocking him over. The referee stood his ground and pointed for Krupp to leave the ring. Krupp stood with his hands on his hips, still yelling. The referee pointed again. Krupp turned abruptly and left the

The dreaded Brain Claw claims another opponent or victim?



Killer Karl Krupp may bleed like any mortal but there is plenty of fight still in him.

ring. The fans threw more objects at Krupp.

Krupp turned toward the fans and yelled their way. He challenged them to fight. The security guards rushed to Krupp. It was hard to tell whether they were protecting Krupp from the fans or the other way around. Krupp yelled at the irate fans, "You are all swine! You are beneath me. I, Killer Karl Krupp, is your master. Swines all of you."

When Killer Karl Krupp returned to his dressing room, he was furious. He picked up his leather swagger stick and slammed it hard across a chair. He spoke in a thick German

envelope and took out a small sheet of paper from it. Suddenly he crumpled the paper in his hand and tossed it across the room.

"I have been ordered to appear tomorrow at the office of the promoter and an official of this alliance. It seems I am being called—how you say it? . . . on the carpet. So they are after Krupp once again."

The next day Killer Karl Krupp made his appearance at the office of the promoter. The alliance official was present. Krupp was in the office for about five minutes. He stalked out of the office, slamming the door very hard. If looks could kill, then Krupp

had murder written on his face. He looked livid.

Krupp raised his fist, "I have been suspended for sixty days and fined five hundred dollars! They claim I refused to release my Brain Claw when ordered. They claim I injured my opponent on purpose. That is the ban. The fine is because I pushed the dumb referee. This is what they call justice. The swines are cowards. They call my conduct unsportsmanlike."

Killer Karl Krupp adjusted his monocle on his right eye. "This marks the sixth time I have been banned from an area. This has be-



Killer Karl Krupp may be bleeding but he is far from beaten

accent, "Those swines are animals. Is this how they treat greatness? Is this how they treat royalty? This would never be allowed in Germany. In my country, they would be dealt with firmly."

Krupp took another swing at the chair. He said, "I was disqualified again. This is the tenth time in three weeks in this area. I won my match. I beat that nothing easily. My Brain Claw was perfect as always. That coward could not withstand the fury of my Brain Claw. I did not hear the referee counting. I was not even aware he was counting. Those animals with their yelling overshadowed the voice of the officials. I won the match and they took it away from me."

Just then, a security guard entered the dressing room holding a white envelope in his hand. He handed it to Krupp, and left. Krupp picked up the

Killer Karl Krupp tries to escape a hold during this match.



come too much. I have been fined before. The money means nothing. I shall pay it. But this ban is ridiculous. All I did was beat my opponent. The referee was wrong. This is a plot to rid the greatest German wrestler ever. The officials are prejudiced against me. This has happened before. I won't stand for it.

"I should be world champion by now. I have been wrestling for over ten years now. I have beaten the best thrown against me. I have rarely been beaten. Most of my losses have been by disqualification. In my eyes these are not losses. I'm being prejudiced against because of my reputation. Because I am German. They are still fighting World War II. They are taking out their hatred on me for what happened over 30 years ago.

"These officials fear me. They fear I will hurt their precious heroes in this country. Like Dusty Rhodes; Rocky

Killer Karl Krupp yells in pain
from attack by Chief
Billy White Wolf



Killer Karl Krupp stands over
another beaten opponent.
Notice a weapon in
Krupp's hand.




Killer Karl Krupp also uses his Brain
Claw on the abdomen of Mike George.



Killer
holdi
Sout

John
Snul
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and
know



Killer Karl Krupp wearing monocle,
holding his leather swagger stick and
Southern States Championship belt.

Johnson; Jose Lothario; Jimmy
Snuka; Dutch Savage; Pedro
Morales and many others. I have is-
sued challenges to these big heroes
and they refuse to meet me. They
know my Brain Claw will destroy

Should George "The Animal" Steele

Pro wrestler George "The Animal" Steele has been known to go absolutely bezerk in the ring, going after the referee, the announcers and even the fans. His unfortunate opponents have been the victims of Steele's unbe-

BY FRANK AMATO

The young wrestler was extremely nervous. He kept pacing up and down the dressing room. A look of fear was etched on his facial features. Drops of perspiration were already showing on his forehead. This was the night he would be facing George Steele, known as the Animal, for the very first time in his life.

Jose Gonzales and Tony Garea were also in the dressing room. They tried not to look the young wrestler's way. Earlier they had tried to calm down the grappler. They had tried to clue the wrestler in on tricks which Steele would use.

Tony Garea shook his head in sympathy, "I feel for the kid. I know what he's going through. No wrestler wants to wrestle George Steele if they have to. The man is so unorthodox. You never know what he will pull in that ring. I've seen him throw in chairs, canes and umbrellas at his opponents. Then there is that taped weapon he uses. This man is aptly called the Animal."

Jose Gonzales nodded in agreement, "Tony is right. This Steele is crazy. I mean, really crazy. No man in his right mind would pull what he does in that ring if he was sane. He goes after the announcer, the referee and even the fans themselves. It isn't hate. He's just unbalanced. This poor kid will never have a chance."

Tony Garea added, "George Steele shouldn't be allowed to wrestle. He has injured many wrestlers with his vicious and cruel tactics. The man is sick and should be under medical care."

The soon-to-be opponent of George Steele stopped his pacing and sat down in a corner. He placed his hands over his face. It was not a pretty picture. It reminded this reporter of seeing movies about convicts waiting for the execution, their own.

Then the time came for the match. The young wrestler walked slowly to the door. He turned and glanced at both Tony Garea and Jose Gonzales. His mouth quivered, trying to smile. Then he left for what awaited him.

In the ring, the wrestler waited for George Steele to make his appearance. Then he heard the loud boos as Steele made his way towards the ring, accompanied by his new manager, the equally maniacal Captain Lou Albano.

George Steele ran into the ring, wearing his black sweater, black tights trimmed in red, and red wrestling shoes. Steele glanced at the ring announcer for TV, Michael Cappetta. Then he rolled his eyes and chased the announcer from the ring.



George Steele chokes his opponent, Gorilla Monsoon.

The boos of the fans seemed to unnerve George Steele and he ran from the ring. The fans taunted Steele and he retaliated with violence. Steele picked up a chair and tossed it into the ring. Then another chair followed suit. Captain Lou Albano ran to his protege and spoke in his ear. Steele removed his ring sweater and entered the ring.

George Steele stood in his own corner, his tongue extended from his mouth, rolling from side to side. His eyes were rolled upwards. Then the bell sounded and Steele

Steele Be Banned From Wrestling?

lievably vicious tactics. That's why many people feel that Steele should not be allowed to wrestle.



Steele punches Bruno Sammartino. Their matches are always action packed.

rushed across the ring, catching the young wrestler unawares.

The Animal went to work immediately. Several kicks left the young wrestler lying outside the ring. Steele followed, Bodyslamming his opponent on the cement floor. Even Lou Albano got into the act sending two quick kicks into the opponent's back. Steele then pushed the wrestler back into the ring.

Steele sent punches and more kicks which left the wrestler limp. The match was no match at all. Steele rel-

ished his vicious tactics. He choked, eye-gouged, stomped the neck, back, legs and arms with repeated kicks and punches.

The wrestler was left lying in mid-ring as George Steele ran to a corner and, with his teeth, tore away at a ring turnbuckle. Soon the rubber padding was in tattered shreds. Steele took some padding and rubbed it into his opponent's eyes.

The Animal was far from finished. Taking more rubber padding, he tried to ram the padding down the wrestler's



Steele has the upper hand as he kicks away at his opponent.

throat. The boos of the fans seemed to make Steele more maniacal. He grabbed an arm of his opponent and started biting the upper part of it.

The young wrestler screamed in pain. Blood soon appeared as those sharp teeth of Steele tore through the skin. The Animal barely heard the warning of the referee. He seemed content to batter that injured arm with one kick after another.

Outside the ring, Captain Lou Albano was happy. He kept yelling for Steele to continue his rampage. Or slaughter. For that was what it was. Steele continued for another minute, kicking his opponent's arm and biting it. Then Steele took the nearly lifeless arm and, forcing it into a Hammerlock, he lifted the opponent. This was a submission hold and the slaughter was over.

In their dressing room, Captain Lou Albano congratulated George Steele on another easy victory: "I have the next WWF champion in George Steele. Give us a title match and that gold belt is ours. No wrestler can withstand George Steele's great wrestling ability. Not even Superstar Graham, the champion."

George Steele tried to wipe away some of the rubber padding pieces from his face. "Listen, Daddy, I'm ready for anyone. You bring him to me. I can win the WWF belt from Superstar Billy Graham. I'm better than him. He was lucky against Sammartino. With George Steele there is no luck. So far, Graham has been running away from me. I want this Superstar Graham."

Just how did Captain Lou Albano come to manage George Steele? Albano comments, "I purchased Steele's contract from The Grand Wizard. Wizard already had

Below: George Steele stands on the turnbuckle with his taped weapon in his mouth.



Stan Stasiak and brought back Superstar Graham. He said he couldn't devote all his time to three wrestlers of their reputation. I paid a high price for George Steele."

The six-foot, 280-pound George "Animal" Steele smiled, "I don't care who's my manager. All I want is the title. I've been trying to win the WWWF belt for ten years now. I've tried against Bruno Sammartino and Pedro Morales. Both wrestled me like cowards. They kept running from me. Now Superstar Graham has the belt. He's running scared. He's afraid that George Steele will bruise

Steele comments, "These wrestlers are great. But I should be the number one all-time great among them. My record speaks for me."

George Steele has lost many a match by being disqualified, and he feels that has kept him from gaining a world championship. "I lost many title matches, because my reputation preceded me. I admit I'm rough. I admit I'm aggressive. I admit I break the rules. But the champions ran from me. They cried how I wasn't wrestling. They cried I would hurt them. They were right. I wanted to hurt



Right: Is there a taped weapon in Steele's hand as he slugs away at Bruno Sammartino?

that beautiful body of his."

"Sure, I'll bruise that body of his. I'll also deflate that ego he has. Graham likes to wrestle easy ones like Tony Garea and Larry Zbyszko. They wrestle by the rules. Well, George Steele has no rules. My only rule is to win. Bust bodies, break bones. You bet Graham is scared."

George Steele has to be rated as one of wrestling's most unorthodox wrestlers. A recent poll placed Steele alongside such maniacal wrestlers as: The Sheik; Abdullah the Butcher; Bull Curry; Killer Kowalski and Brute Bernard. This distinction pleases George Steele.

them. I still want to hurt my opponents. Sammartino cried, Morales cried, and now Graham cries the loudest of all."

Recently Superstar Billy Graham spoke of George Steele as a leading contender for the WWWF belt. He said, "Any wrestler who eats tables, eats chairs, who eats turnbuckles, is dangerous. Any wrestler would be a fool not to fear this man. I'm no fool. But I'm not running from George Steele. I welcome a title match with Steele. It is up to the WWWF to give Steele a title match."

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Professor Toru Tanaka



Mr. Fuji tortures his opponent, Jose Gonzales, by bending Gonzales' fingers.



Professor Toru Tanaka digs deep into the stomach muscles of Lenny Hurst with a Claw hold.

Have you ever seen a movie about Japan's famous Samurai warriors? You know, the type which Toshiro Mifune made so well. The Samurai warriors were expert swordsmen who could, with a single thrust, wipe out six opponents. They were also expert with a knife, spear, and bow and arrow. They usually hired themselves out to the rich to protect their land and family.

The age of the Samurai is long gone from Japan. At least, all that swordplay is gone! But the thinking behind the Samurai lives. It never really died. It still lives in the mind, heart and soul of many Japanese wrestlers. They think of themselves as modern-day Samurai warriors, armed only with their knowledge of pro wrestling, mixed with Karate, Judo and Kung Fu.

Two such Japanese wrestlers, who envision themselves as modern-day Samurai warriors are Prof. Toru Tanaka and Mr. Fuji. They have hired themselves out to Fred Blassie, their newest manager. What they were hired for is simple. Says Blassie, "I want the WWWF World Tag Team Championship. My champions, Prof. Tanaka and Mr. Fuji, will get me that title. Mind you, I didn't say try. They will win it."

There is a two-fold reason behind Blassie's madness. He says, "I have many enemies in wrestling. My two new champions will help destroy these enemies. Again, I didn't say try. They will do what I demand."

Just how did Fred Blassie pull off signing one of the greatest tag teams in wrestling, when neither wrestler had teamed with the other for over a year? Fred Blassie replies, "M-O-

N-E-Y! I waved big fat checks in front of their noses; that is how. Money talks, my friend. I had to travel to Singapore to see Mr. Fuji. He was there, both wrestling and taking a short vacation."

"Then I had to travel to Japan to see Prof. Tanaka at his palatial home. When I told him I had signed Mr. Fuji, well, he was more than glad to sign. I knew then and there I had me the next WWWF champs."

Just why did Fred Blassie want to manage a tag team? After all, since becoming a wrestling manager, he had only managed single competitive wrestlers. Says Blassie, "I'll never try to end my quest for the WWWF World Heavyweight Championship. Right now, Superstar Billy Graham has that belt. I have my plans for that title too. But my thoughts turned to the tag title when those cigar store Indians,

And Mr. Fuji: Wrestling's Samurai Warriors

BY BRENT SCHULTZ



Mr. Fuji (left) and Prof. Toru Tanaka wearing the World Tag Team Championship Belts.

Professor Toru Tanaka and Mr. Fuji could be thought of as two modern-day Samurai warriors hired out to their manager, Fred Blassie, for just one purpose: to win the WWWF Tag Team Championship. With the weapons at their disposal—pro wrestling techniques mixed with Karate, Judo and Kung Fu, it's not at all unlikely that they'll accomplish their mission.

White Wolf and Strongbow, won those belts. No, stole those belts is the right answer. I couldn't stand seeing those Indians parade around as champions. This irked me till I lost sleep over it. I knew I had to do something about it."

Now, why did Fred Blassie pick Prof. Tanaka and Mr. Fuji? Why not some other well known team? Blassie states, "I wanted the very best. I remembered Tanaka and Fuji when they ruled the WWWF just a few short years ago. They were the epitome of tag team wrestling. They were nothing short of sensational. I always admired them as a team. I knew if any team could win me those belts they were it."

In Prof. Toru Tanaka, at six feet, 280 solid pounds, on a stocky, highly muscular frame, Blassie has a top-notch wrestler. Prof. Tanaka is a

Black Belt Karate expert, who teaches this art. Tanaka is well up on the oriental style of wrestling.

Prof. Toru Tanaka, always top-rated, is well known throughout wrestling as a keen competitor who stops at nothing to win. Tanaka came to the WWWF around 1967, to challenge Bruno Sammartino, who was then the WWWF kingpin. Their matches were wars, pure and simple. Tanaka almost won the belt from Sammartino on several occasions. To this day, Bruno Sammartino will admit that Tanaka was always very tough for him.

Prof. Tanaka says of Sammartino, "I don't like Sammartino. But I admire his skill. He make great champion. He must be great to beat Tanaka. Tanaka think he cheated from title many times."

Prof. Toru Tanaka also speaks of

another former WWWF champion, Pedro Morales. "This Morales make good champion, but Tanaka not think he great. Tanaka again cheated from belt against Morales. Morales was protected champion. I should have beaten Morales for title."

Prof. Toru Tanaka has held many titles in his great mat career: All-Asian Champion; International Champion; Americas Champion; Americas Tag Team Champions with Mr. Hiro Ota; International Tag Team Champions with Mitsu Arakawa; twice WWWF World Tag Team Champion with Mr. Fuji; Japanese Tag Team Champion with Mitsu Arakawa.

In Mr. Fuji, Blassie has another world famous wrestler. Mr. Fuji is also a Karate expert. He has traveled far and wide and gathered many titles. Among these are: All-Asian

Champion; U.S. Champion; Universal Champion; Japanese Tag Team Champion with Massa Saito; WWWF World Tag Team Champion twice with Prof. Toru Tanaka.

In his last stay in America, Mr. Fuji gained the U.S. Championship in the San Francisco Bay Area by beating Pat Patterson. Mr. Fuji set record gate receipts for the San Francisco Cow Palace when he defended this title against Ray Stevens. Mr. Fuji never lost this title. He says, "I missed plane connections due to bad weather. I called my close friend, Prof. Tanaka, to take my place and he used a mask, billed as Mr. Akanat. Well, the mask was removed to reveal Tanaka. I was stripped of the belt and banned. I'm the champion still, until I lose that belt. I don't care who has that belt now or who has it if I return. That belt belongs to me!"

At one time in their careers, both Prof. Toru Tanaka and Mr. Fuji were managed by The Grand Wizard. It was Wizard who guided them to the WWWF tag title twice—first by beating Chief Jay Strongbow and Sonny King; next by regaining the belts from the team who had beaten them, Tony Garea and Haystacks Calhoun.

Now that Fred Blassie has this team under *his* guidance, he says, "Wizard had Superstar Billy Graham as WWWF Champion and also Stan Stasiak. He couldn't divide his time managing a team as well. I purchased the rights from Wizard to try and sign Fuji and Tanaka."

The team of Tanaka and Fuji has a new look. They still use their oriental techniques with great success. They still use great team work to win. Now Tanaka uses a certain type of Neckbreaker which is applied like his original Sleeper. Only this time, he snaps the neck after application.

Mr. Fuji also uses a new maneuver. His Cobra Thrust is applied, tossing his opponent off the ropes, and Fuji catches the opponent across the throat with his arm. This is so deadly

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Upper left: This is one way Tanaka and Fuji soften up their opposition. They work on Jose Gonzales here. **Upper right:** Mr. Fuji twists the arm of an opponent, over and over again.

Bottom row (from left to right): Professor Tanaka works diligently on the arm of Lenny Hurst; Tanaka checks to see if the referee is watching as he works on Jose Gonzales; Mr. Fuji bends the fingers of an opponent.





POPULAR PIN-UP:





Superstar Billy Graham

The New Good Guy

Once one of wrestling's most hated villains, Moondog Mayne has changed his ways. And, for the first time in his career, the fans are cheering him.

BY ALLAN BOLTE

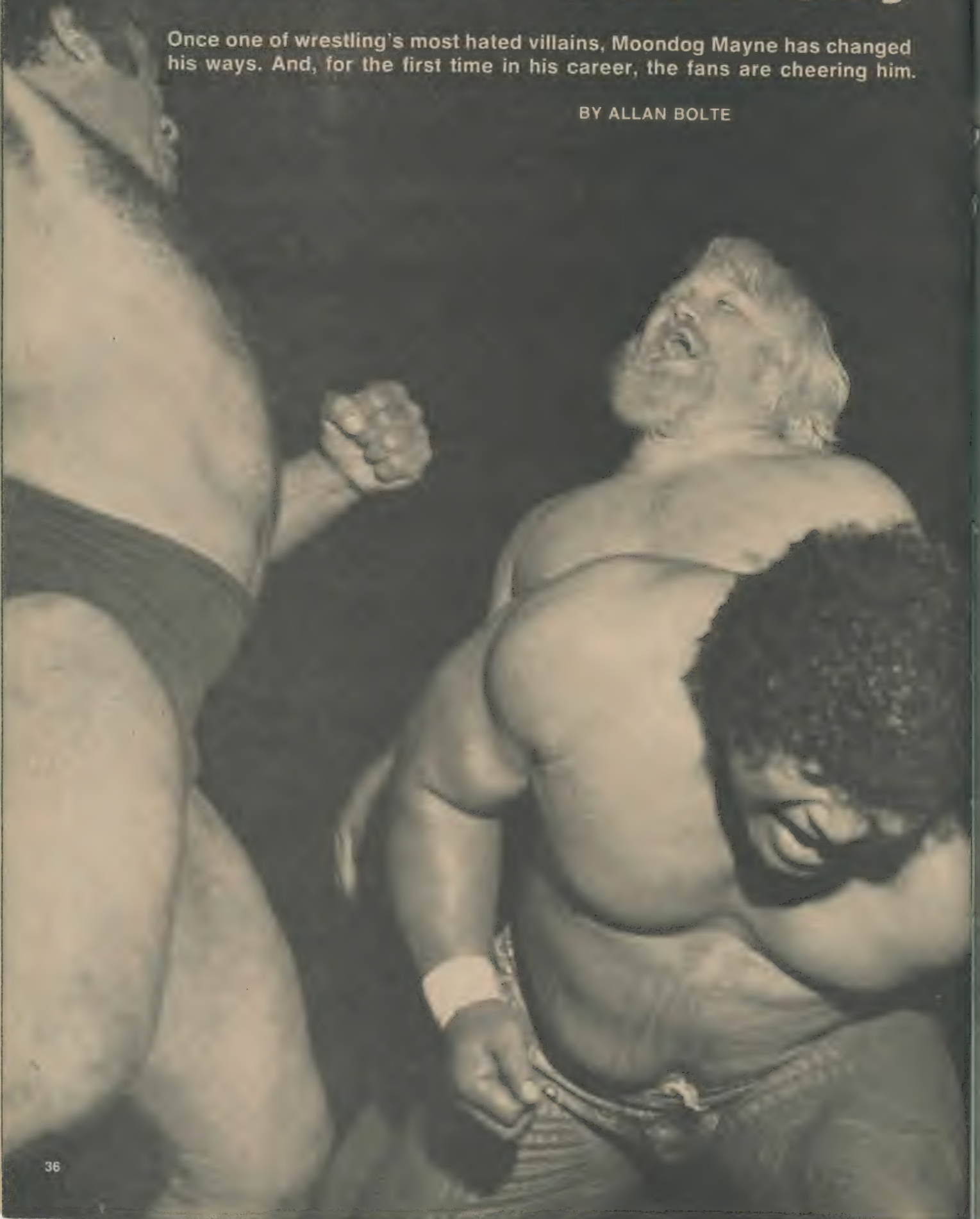


Image Of Moondog Mayne



Left: Mayne competes against Peter Maivia. Above:
Mayne lets out a Moondog howl.

There was a time in the not-too-distant past when wild, woolly Moondog Mayne was the most unpopular man in wrestling. He did anything within his power to win a match and he wasn't satisfied until he had sent his foe screaming to the hospital. And, many men were hospitalized by Mayne.

One night in the television studio, **BIG TIME WRESTLING**, seen weekly by millions of viewers, was being filmed and Mayne got into a slight argument with Angelo Mosca, the 6-3, 313-pound roughneck from Italy. Mosca and Mayne were former tag partners, but they hadn't worked very well together on a previous tag match.

They won their match, but Mosca had accidentally clobbered Mayne several times and, on a few occasions, Mayne accidentally kicked Mosca. Aside from the fact that they just weren't working well together, Mosca wanted to be the captain of the team and Mayne wasn't about to go for that.

So, they ran into each other during a televised interview and they got into an argument. Mosca grabbed the timekeeper's bell and clobbered the Moondog over the head with it!

This bit of action on the part of Mosca was definitely uncalled for, and the fans were sympathizing with Mayne.

So, the two challenged each other



Right: Moondog on television. Below: Mayne and Pat Patterson fight in "the days of old." This was before they became tag team partners.



to a match in San Francisco's Cow Palace and what a grudge battle it was! Mosca was a bloody mess and both wrestlers went at it like wild animals. The fans were rooting for Mayne, and he won the match when the referee ruled that Mosca was cut too badly to continue.

After that, Mayne sat down and decided to change his ways.

"I was tired of being booed, tired of being called names and tired of some of the things that were going on around me," Mayne stated. "I thought about manager Gearhardt Kaiser and I realized that what he does is wrong. I decided to change my ways in the ring a little, and I did. The fans accepted me."

Mayne began teaming with wrestlers such as Pat Patterson, Pedro Morales, Peter Maivia and others who generally follow the rules. The fans naturally were leery of Mayne in the beginning; however, when he began chasing Gearhardt Kaiser and a few others, they were for the Moondog all the way!

Mayne teamed with Patterson and the two made such a tremendous tag team that they defeated The Masked Invaders recently in a no rules match in San Francisco, to win the World's Tag Team Championship! The fans couldn't have been happier with their new champions.

Since then, Mayne has gotten his hands on Kaiser twice and beaten the holy hell out of him.

"I realized how it felt to be trying to wrestle and have that little jerk kicking me or hitting me with his damned steel cane. I got sick and tired of it and decided to get my hands on him once and for all. My style of wrestling really hasn't changed that much," Mayne continued. "The fans are for me and I'm teaming with the other wrestlers who usually follow the rules, but I'm still displaying my roughhouse tactics. I enter the ring prepared for any eventuality. If my opponents want to follow the rules, then fine, so can I. However, if they want to break them, so can I. If anyone knows how to break the rules, it's wild Moondog Mayne!"

"I still get a thrill out of breaking the rules and the fans are going to be the last ones to complain if I'm injuring such wrestlers as Angelo Mosca, The Masked Invaders, Rock "Mr. Wonderful" Riddle, and a few others. They would just as soon see those wrestlers hospitalized. And, if anyone can do it, it's me!"

I guess we now can call him the "new" Moondog Mayne!

Mayne was born in Crab Tree, Arkansas 34 years ago and always loved nothing better than roughing up his opponents, even when he was



Above: Mayne prepares to throw a stretcher at his foe, who happened to be behind the camera when this photo was taken. The photographer moved just in time. Lower photo: Mayne roughs up TV announcer Hank Renner.

a youngster. Mayne participated in athletic events, including wrestling, football and basketball, in school and local YMCA's. He was always much bigger and stronger than his teammates and none of the kids dared to call him any names.

"You can't say that I was really unfriendly when I was younger; however, you better believe I was rough! When it came to sports," Mayne stated, "I believed that the only way to play was with the thought of winning in mind. I was so big and strong that I was perfect for football, plus I loved to wrestle because it was man-to-man, individual contact sports. I prefer wrestling even today to all other sports, because there is no one to blame a loss on, or, on the other hand, to share a win with. Of course, this is not necessarily true in tag team wrestling; therefore, I prefer single wrestling to tag bouts."

Seeing Mayne team with wrestlers such as Pat Patterson, Pedro Morales, and others who prefer following the rules is something else.

He really hasn't changed his style of wrestling much; however, the fans love Mayne simply because now he's on Patterson and Morales' sides! Will Mayne turn on them someday? Who knows!

"I really kind of doubt it," Patterson stated. "I've teamed with Mayne off and on for almost six months now, and I have built a sort of trust in him by this time. Let me tell you a few things that I have experienced with him—he's a tremendous tag partner! I've teamed with the greatest in wrestling, including Ray Stevens, Peter Maivia, Rocky "Soulman" Johnson, Billy Graham and Pedro Morales, and Mayne I think is the greatest tag partner I've ever had. He is always there in my corner when I need him. If our opponents are double-teaming me, Mayne is right there in a matter of seconds."

"Sure, Moondog could turn on me just like he could anyone else. In wrestling, nothing is predictable. However, I could do the same to him and it works both ways. Don't forget that I was like Mayne once, too. I broke every rule I could a couple of years ago, until I suddenly changed my ways. Now, Mayne has done the same thing and I think he likes it better being popular, so we can assume he'll stay that way."

Now, whenever the Moondog enters the ring, the applause is deafening. The fans love him and he occasionally signs autographs and chats with the fans whenever time permits. That, of course can be a problem because he has so little time. He's always on the go.

"The main reason Mayne is in con-

several times. Naturally, these actions would make one wonder about the man; however, he is big and strong, rough and tough, and a very successful professional wrestler.

He has held the United States Heavyweight Championship and he has successfully defended the crown throughout the country against such

topnotchers as Pat Patterson, Samoa's Chief Peter Maivia, Pepper Martin, Pedro Morales, The Mighty Igor, 612-pound Man Mountain Mike, Manuel Cruz, and Jose Lothario Garcia. In those days, Mayne broke every rule he could and was one of the most unpopular wrestlers in the sport.

stant demand is because of his great wrestling ability," promoter Roy Shire recently announced. "He is a tremendous wrestler, and when he's in the ring there's nothing but constant action. The fans love him for this and they always pay to see him in action, so promoters are always attempting to get in touch with the man to make him an offer. He travels all across the world to appear in main events and this is why I have to always shell out lots of the green stuff to keep him mainly based on the West Coast."

Mayne has several finishing holds. His favorite is the one he calls the "Arkansas Stomp," which sees him Bodyslam his foe hard on the mat, then climb to the top rope strand and leap off, landing with all of his 301 pounds on his opponent's throat, elbow first. Many opponents have been laid off for several months because of this hold.

Standing 6'2" tall and weighing 301 pounds, Mayne is extremely fast and agile in the ring, in view of his large size. He has long, straight, thick blond hair, a large blond beard, and he generally wears colorful long tights and heavy boots when he's on the mat.

Many who follow the wrestling matches still insist the man is a little bit crazy. They look back at the wild things he has done on television interviews and in the arenas, and they harp on these actions, claiming he's out of his mind. They recall the time he ate a live goldfish, the time he seriously sliced his chest and mid-section with glass and bled severely, the time he ate a can of raw dog food, and the time he slammed his own head against the timekeeper's bell



Samoan Chief Peter Maivia throws Moondog Mayne across the ring.

Now, Mayne has mixed it up with rugged matmen like The Masked Invaders, Mr. Saito, Kinji Shibuya, manager Gearhardt Kaiser, Rock "Mr. Wonderful" Riddle and others. And, it might be wise to point out that the Moondog never loses a match, except of course, if he gets disqualified for losing his temper and taking

it out on his opponent.

"The fans seem to really like me now, and I'm very happy about it," Moondog said. "I plan on wrestling like this for as long as possible. I am very successful and well liked everywhere I go, and this now is very important to me, whereas it wasn't before. I am in more demand now

and I'm much happier. I feel that wrestling is a sport and guys like The Masked Invaders, Mr. Saito, Gearhardt Kaiser and a few others don't belong in the sport at all. They're a disgrace to it, so it takes guys like me to properly get rid of them. And, believe me, as you can see that's precisely what I'm doing. Just give me a little bit more time and you'll see exactly what I mean.

"Gearhardt Kaiser is the man I'm gunning at presently. He has no business being anywhere near ringside, I don't care if he is a manager or not. He interferes too often and I'll make him pay for it, believe me. There is no one anywhere who approves of Kaiser except for the Masked Invaders. So, mark my words: I'll get rid of Gearhardt Kaiser within a month or so—definitely by the time this magazine is available on the newsstands."

After that Mayne did get his hands on Kaiser and the latter was sorry he had ever said bad things about him. Not long after Mayne repaid Kaiser, the giant blond was in San Francisco during their annual 18-Man Battle-Royal. It had been over three months since he had been seen on the West Coast and he was rooted to the rafters the moment he entered the arena. Unfortunately, he failed to win the battle-royal; however, he aided other wrestlers in eliminating such greats as Andre the Giant, Harley Race, Dory Funk, Jr., and Peter Maivia.

It's a good guess Moondog will choose to keep his style of wrestling; however, if he does someday decide to change his ways, he'll obviously still be loved by his thousands of fans.

Look out: A bloody Mayne jumps on fallen foe.



Smirnoff poses for Popular Wrestling

Alexis Smirnoff: "The

They call him "The Mad Russian" of the wrestling world and the name seems to suit him. Alexis Smirnoff has been taking on some of the best American wrestlers on the

Everyone was talking about it. Posters were all over the city advertising it. Sports announcers were discussing it. Alexis Smirnoff, known to many as "The Mad Russian," was going to take on Pat Patterson for the United States Heavyweight Wrestling Championship in San Francisco's huge Cow Palace.

Smirnoff was actually relatively new to the area, having wrestled on the West Coast for only a few months. The moment he arrived, there was excitement and he immediately became one of the most unpopular wrestlers in the area.

"I have come to the West Coast because I was told of the top competition there," Smirnoff stated on BIG TIME WRESTLING, seen weekly on color television. "Wrestlers like Patterson, Alberto Madril, Dean Ho, Pepper Gomez, Bob Roop and Hiro Ota are all topnotchers. I also was told the money was excellent and the climate was good. So, here I am."

Smirnoff defeated many of the highly rated wrestlers and worked his way up to the number one challenging position, in line for a title crack at Patterson. The match was to take place on a Saturday night and weeks before the bout everyone was talking about it.

"Patterson may be a great wrestler, but he has never wrestled me," Smirnoff insisted. "I don't care how many fantastic wrestlers he has de-



"The Mad Russian" chokes Pat Patterson.

Mad Russian''

West Coast, determined to beat them all. He'll stop at nothing—not even outright brutality—to establish his supremacy over them.

BY ALLAN BOLTE



Smirnoff, ready for action



Smirnoff beats Alberto Madril with his boot.

feated before, he has never stepped into the ring with me. I really don't think he is aware of what he is getting into. He will be all finished by the time I am finished with him, and if he's lucky, he will only spend a few months in the hospital. All of his fans will be in shock when they see him carried away on a stretcher.

"In Russia, we do things rough and you have to be a man to be in sports there. That is where I had lots of my training. I am going to use all my strength and knowledge on Patterson when we have our match."

Smirnoff and Patterson first wrestled in a 'Russian Chain Match' and there was plenty of action. Both wrestlers were covered with blood by the time the bout had ended and it was Smirnoff who won the match and the championship and seemingly not one spectator out of the thousands in attendance was happy over the victory.

Neither wrestler followed the rules during the bout. Smirnoff started off doing the dirty work. He hit, kicked, bit, gouged, and stomped his way around the mat and finally Patterson realized he had better begin breaking a few rules as well.

That is precisely *what he did*. He tore into Smirnoff, threw him around the ring and won the first fall.

Smirnoff came back to win in the second fall, to even things up.

There was hectic mat action in the

third and deciding fall of action and fans were on the edge of their seats all the way. Both wrestlers were a bloody mess and Smirnoff began beating Patterson over his head with his chain.

The match finally ended with Patterson flat on his back. Smirnoff walked away the winner and the new king.

Not that he proved to be a better man in the ring. After all, Patterson had the upper hand throughout a good portion of the match but it was Smirnoff who walked away the winner.

"You're damned right I walked away the winner," the Russian shouted. "Just like I said I would. When I say that I am going to do

something, I do it. No if's, and's, or but's. I will retain my title."

The two met in a rematch in the same ring and this was a 'Taped Fist Match.' Both wrestlers' fists were covered with tape and there was a lot of action in this match as well.

However, Smirnoff again walked away the winner. Again he didn't prove to be much of a better wrestler.

Smirnoff and partner Bob Roop work over Pepper Gomez.



He broke a few rules when he defeated Patterson for the third fall behind the referee's back.

"No one in the United States likes me," Alexis added. "It is obvious everyone is insanely jealous of me. They all see only evil in me. Everyone says that I cheated to beat Patterson, that I didn't and couldn't beat him fair and square. I say that's not at all

true.

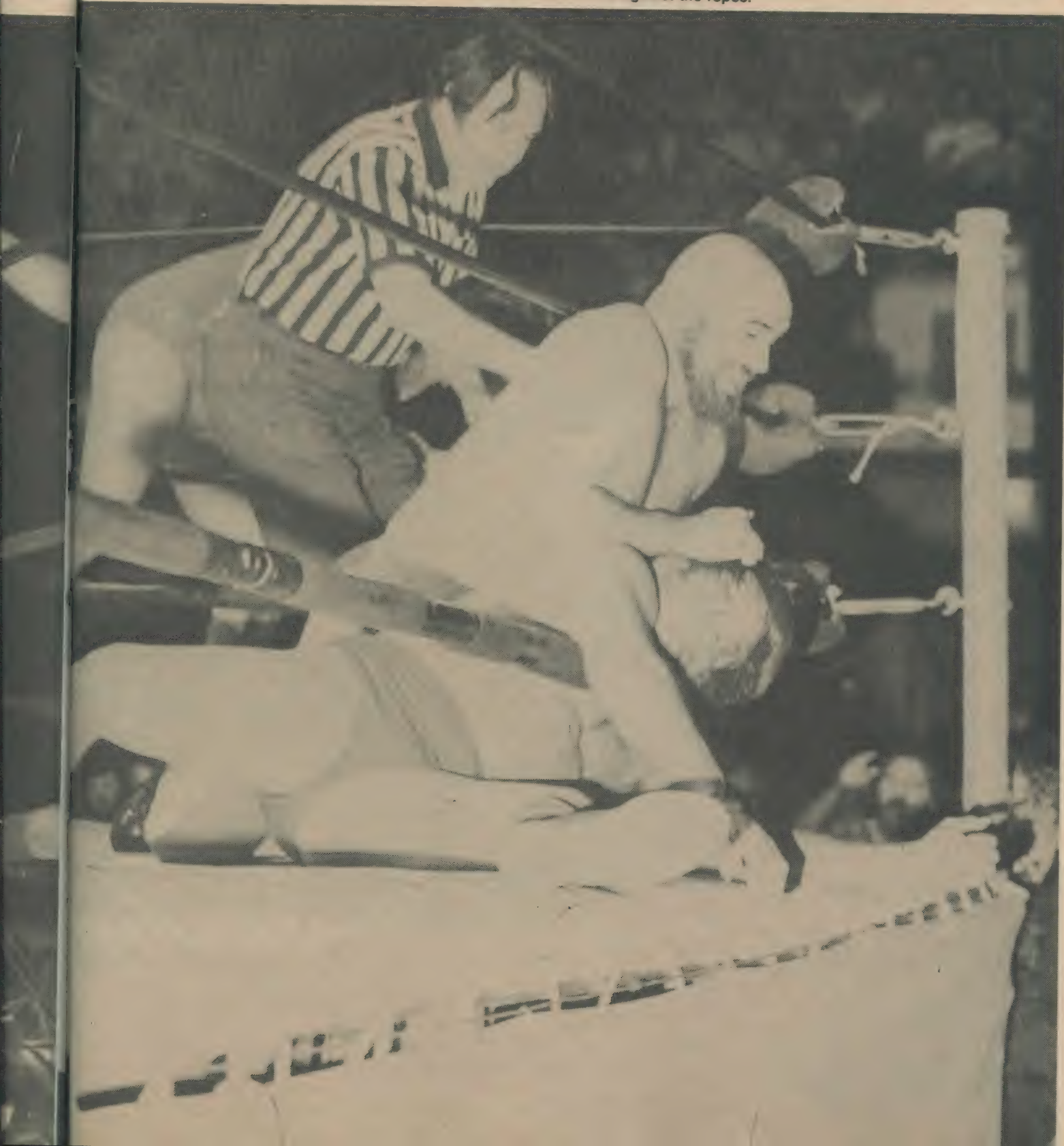
"After all, who is the champion? I am! And, I will defend my crown against any and all comers successfully, I don't care who comes along. Like a typical Russian, I am not afraid of anything."

Smirnoff occasionally teams up with equally hated Bob Roop and the two make a rough, rugged, knock-

down-drag-out tag combination. Roop is a former AAU and Olympic Wrestling Champion and when Smirnoff spotted him in action he decided he would make a good partner.

"Roop was wrestling in a different match on the same card I was one night," he said. "I immediately liked his style. Like me, he was rough and

Smirnoff chokes Gomez against the ropes.



strong and sadistic. He enjoyed winning and he would do so, regardless how it had to be done. I knew the promoters often liked to have tag matches and, although I prefer wrestling in single matches, I knew I would be asked to wrestle tag bouts. So, I figured I should wrestle them with a qualified, capable partner."

Roop and Smirnoff have defeated many leading teams and many of the fans call them 'murder incorporated.' They are a sadistic tandem and they will do anything within their power to be victorious.

"I will admit Roop is capable," Smirnoff stated. "Of course, he is not as good as I. If I were rating other wrestlers, I really would say he is the second greatest wrestler in the coun-

pounds and it was all solid muscle. It would be safe to say he lost few street fights back home.

"Truthfully, I didn't have many fights when I was younger," he stated. "One thing I wasn't interested in being was a bully. I liked beating up the bullies. I would never pick on anyone who was easy to pick on. I would only pick on someone my own size and there were few of them around. So, most of my schoolmates looked up to me and respected me. I was the star athlete at high school and the coaches were always after me to play all the sports. My favorites were always any contact sports that were rough and sometimes dangerous. That was right up my alley."

Smirnoff first turned professional

eight years ago and he since has wrestled successfully in main events all over the world, including Australia, Russia, Japan, the United States and Canada. He has met and defeated many of the greats of each area, by fair means or foul—usually foul.

When the Russian enters the ring and the bell sounds, there is plenty of action. When he does break the rules, he tries to do so behind the referee's back and he generally is quite cunning and clever about this. However, he occasionally pushes too far and winds up being disqualified.

"The only time I ever lose a match is if I am disqualified," Alexis informed us. "The American referees are prejudiced against me and I



Tag team partner Bob Roop watches as Smirnoff applies pressure to Pepper Gomez' neck.

try, I, of course, am the greatest. I would rate Ivan Koloff, another Russian grappler, as being an excellent athlete in excellent shape. The Von Steigers of Germany are a great tag team and, if I ever wrestle in a six-man tag match, I would have to have them on my side.

"Like I said, Russian wrestlers are the greatest," Smirnoff continued. "Believe me, I am not saying that just because I am a Russian. Take a look at the record books. They speak for themselves. There is not one pro wrestler currently in the sport who isn't or wasn't a champion of some sort."

As a youngster Smirnoff participated in many competitive sports in school and he was always big and strong. He now weighs 272 pounds and stands 6'3" tall. At 19 years old, he stood 6'1" and weighed 220



Smirnoff and Pat Patterson during their Russian Chain Match.

guess I have to tolerate that. They often disqualify me, even if I do nothing wrong. I seldom cheat—only if my opponent does so first. I really believe I could win my matches, even if I followed all of the rules. Few wrestlers nowadays do follow every rule. Wrestling, just like football, roller derby, ice hockey and boxing, is rougher than ever before and the athletes are bigger and stronger. There are no pushovers in these sports anymore.

"If the referees don't like me and they disqualify me for every little thing I do, then I guess I just have to accept this and push on. I'll make up for it my own way. Any wrestler who accepts my challenge will be a sorry man. I will punish him the best and

most effective way I know how. I'll take it out on someone."

Smirnoff is hated by fans on the West Coast with a passion. They hated him the moment he began wrestling here and their hatred towards him seems to grow with each match.

One fan had the following to say about him: "I have been attending wrestling often over the last six years, and I have never hated anyone as much as I hate him. The only other wrestler I hate as much might be The Sheik. The Sheik is a maniac and I sometimes wonder if he is all there. I really feel he should be banned from wrestling. Smirnoff is crazy like The Sheik. Actually, I think if Smirnoff tried following the rules, he might

win a few matches just as easily as if he broke them the way he does. I don't care what he says during interviews, he cheats and that's all there is to it. A wrestler will come along and beat him good and teach him a lesson."

Another young fan said, "I predict Pat Patterson will come back and get even with Smirnoff. After all, Smirnoff did not defeat Patterson fairly to win the title. Everyone knows that, including Patterson. I think he will get a rematch with Smirnoff and beat the hell out of him. Patterson will win his crown back and put Smirnoff out of wrestling."

A lot of fans would enjoy seeing that happen. Smirnoff never signs an autograph, he cusses and spits at the



Smirnoff drags Patterson by the chain.



Smirnoff with his title belt.

fans, he insults them during interviews and he breaks every rule he can. He is big and rugged looking and it is no wonder spectators despise him so.

Regardless, the man is currently the king and not one wrestler as of yet has come along and dethroned him of his laurels. Sure, there are many topnotch, capable wrestlers in the world; however, none has proven more capable than Smirnoff, the mad Russian.

"And I am tired of people calling me 'The Mad Russian,' and I will not tolerate it any more. It's the fans and other wrestlers who are mad, not me. I will prove this time and time again before I ever retire from wrestling," retaliates Smirnoff.

The man has done a good job so far of getting his point across to anyone who cares to listen.

"I Don't Want People To Like



Brooks: "At least I know what I want! I already know that money is the big thing. I'll go anywhere to chase it."

Me," Snarls Killer Brooks

By Bob Tringali

His beard was longer than ever. He sat with a scowl on his face, chomping vigorously on a large cigar. Defiantly, he would flick the ashes on the floor. From time to time he would turn to one side and expectorate into a large coffee can in front of his locker. Then he would sit back in a comfortable looking arm chair, his weight causing it to tilt backwards against the wall.

Killer Brooks was back in Detroit's Cobo Arena. He had just returned from a trip to Japan. It was a trip that he wanted to make, even though he's only been on the circuit four years now. An invitation to wrestle in Japan is usually reserved for the better known veteran stars. But, Brooks is something else again. He's a young man in a hurry, chasing the dollar and the fame that goes with it.

There is a youthful look to Brooks. Albeit, he is only 25 years old. As wrestlers go, that is young. Because of his boyish looks, Brooks, at first impression, doesn't appear to be mean. But looks are deceiving. His killer instinct is below the surface, where it counts.

There isn't anything fancy about Brooks. Which is the way he wants it. His wrestling attire consisted of plain black tights, black boots and black jacket with the name Killer Brooks across the back. He just shuns the fancy frills that some of his opponents masquerade in.

"Those fancy duds are for the losers," snapped Brooks with a light Texas twang. "I've never been one for that sort of stuff. It's not going to help you wrestle. Only one thing can help you there and that's ability. Nothing else. Once a guy takes off all those fancy pieces he has nothing but himself."

Brooks has ability. He has size, too. He has broad shoulders which frame a 52-inch chest. He has strong legs and is well built. The only fancy things about him are his tattoos which appear on both arms, one each on his biceps and forearms. The tattoos are the result of a dare made by one of his army buddies while he was stationed in West Germany as a military policeman.

He didn't have a beard then. Or while he was growing up in Dallas, Texas. That's something that Brooks acquired when he got out of the service and decided to embark on a wrestling career. Not that he needed it for wrestling. It's just that he felt comfortable in a beard. It fit his character.

"I can't understand the dumbness of people," snorted Brooks.

"Invariably they all ask me why did I grow a beard. Now isn't that stupid? 'Why do you shave?' I ask them.

Their answer invariably is that they don't like beards.

"Well, that's a good reason why I grew a beard, simply because people don't like them. I don't want people to like me, so it's just perfect for me. A lot of wrestlers go around worrying if the fans like them or not. Me, I couldn't care less. That's not important to me. I prefer that people don't like me. This way I don't have to worry about it. I'm not running any popularity contest. That's the crutch losers use. I'm only interested in one thing: winning and the money that it brings.

"At least I know what I want. I've only been in this business four years, but I already know that money is the big thing. I'll go anywhere to chase it. That was one of the biggest things that lured me to Japan. Naturally, I was quite honored to get asked. They only invite the best wrestlers over there. But, the money was right and so I accepted; otherwise, I wouldn't have gone."

The way Brooks' star is climbing, it won't be his last trip. Before he went there for a month, the name Killer was known to Japanese fans through such stars as Kowalski, Austin, and Kox. Now, Brooks has given them something to remember. What's more, Brooks liked what he saw in Japan and hopes to go back again soon.

"The people treated me good over there," remarked Brooks. "They respect ability. The American fans should learn about being courteous from the Japanese. Courtesy and respect. They don't heckle the wrestlers like they do over here. I just wish the fans would leave us alone so that we can do a better job.

"I was also impressed with the Japanese wrestlers. They are vicious and clever, which is the way I like it. I thought that the wrestlers would be small, but they are big and heavy. What's more, they take their wrestling seriously. When they lose, they regard it as a great personal setback. That's the way it should be. Wrestling is a serious sport and anyone who takes it lightly shouldn't be in the business.

"What also impressed me about the Japanese wrestlers was that they are constantly working out. They always strive for perfection. I go for

that, too.

"I must say I had a successful tour. I had 20 matches, won 12 and was disqualified the other eight times. The referees were the same anywhere you go... unfair. But the crowds were big and it meant that I got to put a lot of money in the bank."

On the way back from Japan, Brooks stopped in Hawaii. It was somewhat of a busman's holiday. He wanted to work out and work on a few new holds he learned in Japan before returning to the continental United States. In between a little relaxation on the beach, Brooks accomplished what he wanted.

"I learned some new approaches to my elbow smash," revealed Brooks. "However, I'm not about to tell anyone about it. I'll let my opponents discover it when it is too late to do them any good. The Japanese taught me to be clever. They also showed me a new diet of food—namely raw fish, octopus, shark and tender Kobe beef. Like I mentioned, I learned a lot in Japan."

It was during his Japanese adventure that Brooks decided to grow his beard longer. The way he figures it, the fuller growth will make him meaner and more ornery. That should make fans even more hostile toward him. Which is what he wants, anyway.

He also wants to settle a few personal matters in the ring. At the top of his list is Bobo Brazil. Right behind are Tex McKenzie and Igor. It's quite an ambitious goal. All three are recognized stars. Yet, Brooks is completely blasé about the whole thing. In fact, he is even looking ahead, past the celebrated trio. That should say something about his confidence.

"After I finish with those three, I may decide to team with a tag partner, just to beat The Kangaroos and Stomper and Justice," disclosed Brooks. "I want to beat these supposed stars before I leave for another trip to Japan. I won't leave until I accomplish what I have in mind. I'll tell you another thing. I don't plan to be around here that long either. The sooner I get it done, the quicker I can return to Japan and start getting that big money, fame and respect that I deserve and goes unrewarded in the U.S. where I'm not appreciated.

"I thought things would change when I got back from Japan the first time. But it hasn't. It's no different

than when I left. I am not being treated with the respect and admiration that I justly deserve. It's not only the fans, but the promoters, too. They aren't giving me a steady stream of main event matches as they promised after my tour.

"It may sound like sour grapes, but it isn't. A deal is a deal. I lived up to my end, but the promoters are reneging on theirs. I earned main-event status and I expected to be given that recognition. But all I get are promises. I'm a guy in a hurry and I don't have the patience to wait.

"That's what I mean about respect. If you just sit back and take it, they won't have any respect for you. I'm not made that way. I fought to earn my respect and nobody is going to deprive me of it by treating me like a stumble bum. I'm far from one of those. Nobody has given me a break. I've gotten this far all by myself. I earned my way to the top.

"It's just like I implore the fans when I'm on television. If they disagree with anything that I do, then let them come to the arena and tell me so, right to my face, if they have nerve enough to do so. I don't go for all that petty talking behind my back. Where I come from, you walk up to a man and look at him straight in the



Brooks: "People ask me why I grow a beard? Isn't that dumb. I ask them why do they shave?"



eye. And if you have anything to say, you say it."

It was obvious that Brooks had gotten tougher. He wasn't, by any stretch of the imagination, soft before he went to Japan. But he's back in U.S. circles with hardened feelings about fans, promoters and all of his opponents. In that respect, he's consistent.

"I'm a new man," exclaimed

Brooks. "My outlook is different. I don't care for rules anymore. I used to obey them, but it didn't get me anything except a few injuries from other wrestlers who didn't abide by them. So why should I? If it has to be an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, then I'm willing to let the chips fall where they may. That's what this game is all about, anyway.

"Let this be a warning to

everybody: I'll go out to win in any way, and I mean any way, that I can. There is no limit to what I will do to achieve victory. That's the way I want it. And my opponent better face up to what he's getting into before he climbs into the ropes against me. At least I am warning them.

"As soon as I sign for a match, I begin to get ready for my opponent. I plan my moves more now. I study films of different matches, much like I did when I was playing football. And it has worked. I can read films and, by the same token, discover my opponent's weakness. After that, all I have to do is attack that weakness, just like in football. I'm ahead of my opponent even before I step into the ring."

Brooks wants to continue upward in the wrestling world. The way it looks, it's going to be hard to keep him down.



Killer Karl Krupp and Chief Billy White Wolf carry their match outside the ring

KILLER KARL KRUPP

Continued from page 25

Killer Karl Krupp pulls on the leg of his opponent who's caught around the post

them. They stay away, hiding."

Yes, Killer Karl Krupp does have a big reputation. He is known far and wide. From Florida to Texas. From Hawaii to Canada to Oregon. From Europe to Asia. From Australia to New Zealand to South Africa. Wherever Killer Karl Krupp appears, mayhem usually follows.

In his travels, Krupp has gathered many titles: The Southern States Title; European Championship; Pacific Northwest Championship; All Asian Championship; International Championship; Austria-Asian Championship.

Krupp makes no excuses for his brand of wrestling. He says, "I wrestle my way. Call it rough or mean or dirty. Call it what you please. I will kick, punch, choke or do whatever it needs for me to win. This is a rough business with no room for cowards. They can disqualify me, but they can't beat me. They can't break my spirit. We Germans are superior wrestlers, because we don't delude ourselves. We are masters in wrestling. We once nearly ruled the world. We would rule wrestling but we are biased against."

Killer Karl Krupp adjusted his monocle once again. He stood rather stiffly. "I will return here again. I have unfinished business. You can stop me only momentarily. I will return and destroy my enemies. We Germans are superior. We are the master race. We will endure, because that is how we are brought up. You can put me down, but you can't keep me there. Killer Karl Krupp will return and all wrestlers will hide like cowards. They fear me and that is good. The battle is half won right there. They can ban me. They can fine me. They can never beat me. I will survive these crooked officials. Killer Karl Krupp will never be beaten!"

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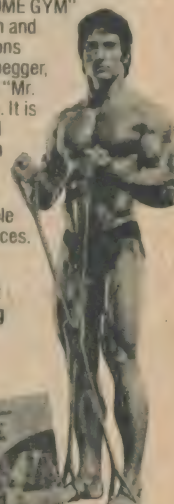
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TANAKA AND FUJI

Continued from page 33

that many opponents need a doctor's care afterwards. Mr. Fuji, at 5-11 and 260 pounds, moves fast for his size.

Since Tanaka and Fuji invaded the WWWF, they have won match after match. They quickly became the top contenders for the title. Chief Strongbow and Chief Billy White Wolf were the champions. A showdown looked certain. Then fate stepped in, in the name of Ken Patera.

It was Ken Patera who hospitalized White Wolf with his dreaded Swinging Neckbreaker. White Wolf required surgery and he could not return to wrestling. The WWWF declared that Strongbow had to give up the belts. Because of this, Tanaka and Fuji were called upon to meet another team that had remained undefeated as well—Tony Garea and Larry Zbyszko. The winners were to become the new WWWF champions.

But fate stepped in once again. Prof. Tanaka injured his left foot. At this moment, Tanaka's left foot and ankle still carries a cast. The cast will be removed soon and that long-awaited title match will take place. Fred Blassie states, "The title will be ours. Having Tanaka and Fuji is like money in the bank. I'm not worried about the outcome of this title match when it happens. Garea and Zbyszko are good but they are meeting the masters of team wrestling. They were once one of the best teams around. Under me they will become the very best. I'll take them on a world tour, meeting all challengers. You name them, and we will beat them."

There is no denying that Prof. Toru Tanaka and Mr. Fuji are an excellent team. They have proven that. They may become the next WWWF tag champions. These two modern-day Samurai warriors have nothing to prove. Their reputation is made. Many think they are the best.



Above: (left) Professor Tanaka has hold of Tony Garea's arm and works on neck muscles of his opponent with his free hand. (right) Is Professor Tanaka choking his opponent, Jose Gonzales? The referee argues the point with Toru.

Lower left: Is that a choke? Tanaka tries to look innocent, but notice where his hands are on Tony Garea's neck. Lower right: Mr. Fuji and Professor Toru Tanaka size up the opposition before yet another tag bout.



IVAN PUTSKI: THE VIGILANTE

Continued from page 21

Right: (upper photo) Putski gets a good, strong Headlock on Ken Patera.
(lower photo) Putski batters away at Baron Fritz Von Raschke.

the wrongs? Ivan comments, "I just say they hurt my friends. If they win by legal means, then I say they are better wrestler. But they use weapons. They use vicious tactics. They go beyond the decency of wrestling rules and make a mockery of wrestling.

"I'm not a vigilante, am I? Is that what Putski is? Maybe I am. If so, then Ivan Putski a vigilante. I'm proud of it. I want to see justice. I want to see these bad, mean wrestlers get what is due them. If I can do what I can, perhaps they will think twice before they use their unfair methods. Because then they will know they have Putski to deal with."

There are three men who would like nothing better than to see Ivan Putski gone from the WWWF territory. They are highly rated wrestling managers: The Grand Wizard; Captain Lou Albano and Fred Blassie. For years, they have imported wrestlers to do in former WWWF World Heavyweight Champion Bruno Sammartino. Along the way Ivan Putski has stepped in.

Ivan comments, "Yes, these managers are snakes in the grass. They are vermin who bring in these bad men to hurt Bruno, my good friend. They also try to hurt my other friends. These managers pay big money for wrestlers to cause harm. This must stop and Putski will stop them. I must stop them."

Ivan was informed of what The Grand Wizard said about him being a chivalrous knight who belongs back in the Middle Ages. Putski laughed at this, "Me a knight? I don't wear this heavy armor. All Ivan wears is trunks and wrestling shoes. Ivan carries no sword. No battle axe. I don't ride beautiful horse. But Ivan does like pretty girls. This Wizard speak big words, but Ivan someday will shut him up."

Fred Blassie, one of Putski's arch enemies, said of Ivan, "This runt doesn't know when he's well off. Even getting a beating hasn't changed him any. He forgets what my

Caught temporarily in Baron Fritz Von Raschke's Brain Claw, Putski powers his way out of trouble.







Left: Ivan Putski is Polish Power personified as he gives Baron Fritz Von Raschke a king-size headache.

bounty hunter, Stan Hansen, did to him last year at Madison Square Garden. Remember, Putski, how Hansen busted your head open with his Lariat? He put you in the hospital, didn't he? You forget because you are dumb. I have others just waiting for you. You will get the Blassie

treatment. Just you wait."

Ivan replied, "Yes, I remember Stan Hansen well. His Lariat put Bruno in hospital. It put Ivan in hospital. I don't forget. This Lariat do bad things to wrestlers. This Hansen brag on TV how he put Bruno and myself in hospital. But Blassie

forget I get even with Stan Hansen later. Ivan Putski get even with Hansen and all who think they big tough men."

Since entering the WWWF, Ivan has done battle with many wrestlers. They read like a Who's Who: Stan Stasiak; Tor Kamata; Bruiser Brodie; Ivan Koloff; Blackjacks Lanza and Mulligan; Butcher Vachon; Ken Patera; Baron Fritz Von Raschke; The Executioners; George Steele; Superstar Billy Graham; The Valiant Brothers; The Wolfman; Waldo Von Erich; Spiros Arion and Bugsy McGraw.

Ivan remembers them all very well: "All so-called tough guys. They go around being big bullies. They think who they are. Then they meet Ivan Putski and I put knots in their heads with my Polish Hammer. I give them Polish justice. I don't forget them and I hope they don't forget Putski. I want them to remember me.

Captain Lou Albano says of Ivan Putski, "This man is mental. I mean, he's a mental midget. First off, he has illusions on wrestlers being after him and his so-called friends. What friends? They are all laughing at him behind his back, because he's taking it upon himself to being their guardian. They laugh secretly at him, because he's taking lumps believing he's helping them. You call a man like Putski smart? I don't. He is just dumb."

Ivan Putski was informed about what Albano had to say, "This Albano is scared. You know why? Because Ivan beat his wrestler. I show Albano his wrestlers can't beat me. Take Ken Patera, for instance. I wrestle this Patera many times and he never beat Putski by pin or submission. This Patera think he stronger than anyone. Well, Putski show Patera what strength is all about. My record against Patera show I beat him everywhere. Can Patera claim this against me? You know he can't."

Then there was another Albano protege in George "Animal" Steele. Says Putski of Steele, "This is no wrestler. This man totally insane. He uses taped weapon like another part of body. You know where animals belong? Wild animals like this

Steele? They belong in cage. Well, recently, in Baltimore, I get this George Steele in Steel Cage Match and I beat him big. That is what Putski do to animals like Steele."

Yet there is concern over the welfare of Ivan Putski. Friends like Chief Jay Strongbow wish that Ivan would watch himself in matches with men like Patera and Von Raschke, among others. Says Strongbow, "Ivan is a great guy, a good friend. But I fear for him. I know what trying to help out friends can get you into. Ivan has taken it upon his shoulders to be a kind of watchdog for us all. I hope it doesn't become too heavy for Ivan. I know Ivan is strong. Stronger than most, maybe even the strongest wrestler there is. Still he must watch himself at all times. If I know Wizard, Blassie and Albano, they are cooking up ways to destroy Ivan. I would hate to see that."

Ivan Putski has gathered an army. He calls them his Polish Army. They are the fans who come out to witness Ivan do battle with his enemies. They come wearing T-shirts bearing his picture and his name. They carry big signs proclaiming themselves part of Putski's army. After a Putski match they toss in gifts like hats, shirts, signs, sweaters and even home-made Polish food.

Ivan says, "I love gifts. I love my Polish Army. They support me in what I do. They travel all over to see Ivan put knots in heads of tough guys. My army grows everyday. The fans know Putski is right. They want to see Putski clean up wrestling."

Ivan Putski from Krakow, Poland has come a long way. Many feel he will someday wear the WWWF World Heavyweight Championship belt. He has the experience and the tools. Ivan says, "I know I can beat Superstar Graham. He say he is strongest wrestler. I say I'm stronger. I show Superstar I stronger than he. So far, Graham is lucky to hold belt against me. He hasn't beaten me decisively yet. Soon Ivan will take the belt away from Graham. Then my army and I will have giant party."

As long as managers like Wizard, Blassie and Albano continue to bring in wrestlers, the battles will continue for Ivan Putski. Always another battle to be fought. So far Ivan has survived these battles. So far Ivan has won these battles in the long run. But can he continue? Can his superior strength carry him onward?

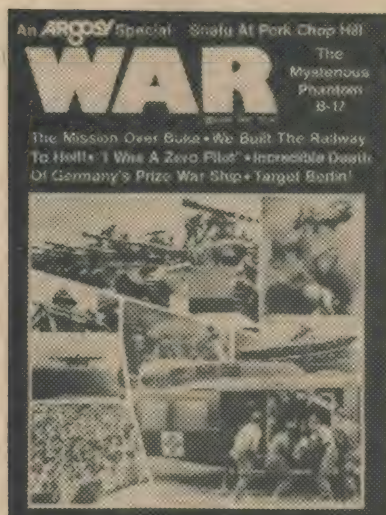
He has the fierce determination to win. To survive. But, as Chief Jay Strongbow asked, "Has he taken too much upon his shoulders?" Will that heavy weight bring down the Super Pole? Let's hope not. Wrestling needs Ivan Putski.



Ivan Putski has a side Headlock on Ken Patera as Patera struggles to free himself.

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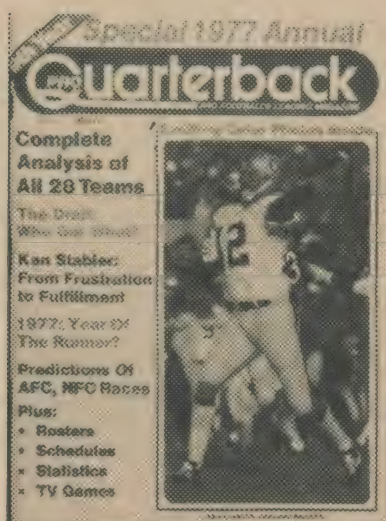
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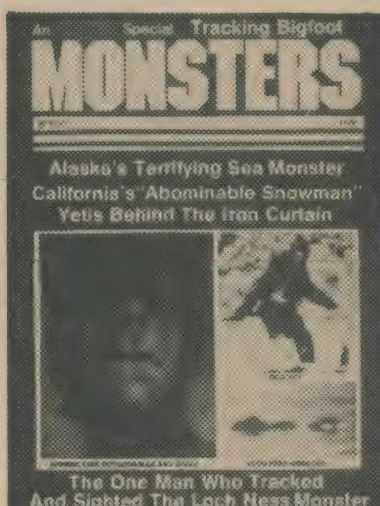
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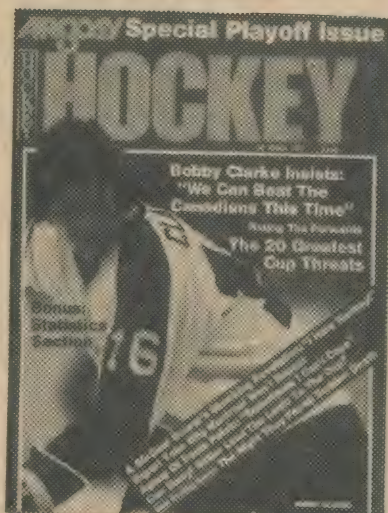
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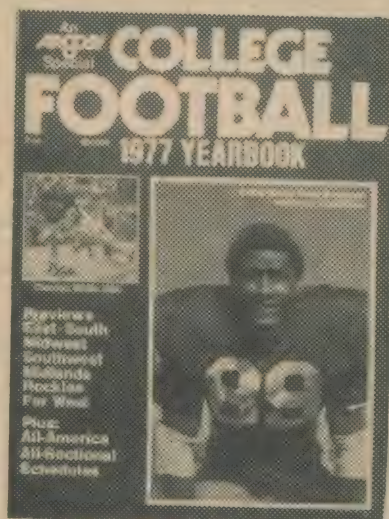
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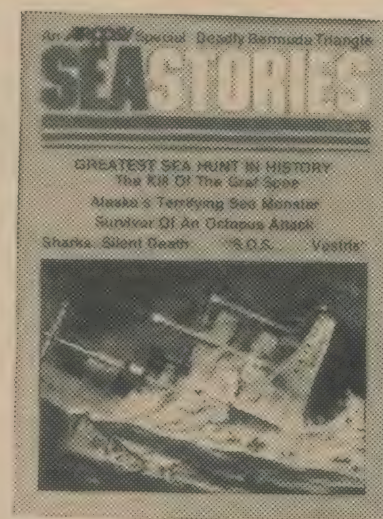
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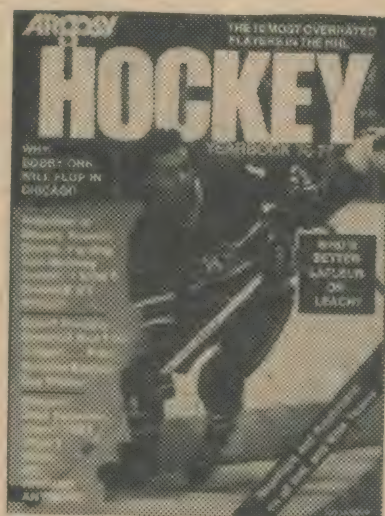
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Steele: "I'm not an animal. I'm aggressive in my matches. I don't care how I win, but win I do. I don't need weapons. I'm sane."



GEORGE STEELE

Continued from page 29

The Grand Wizard, who manages Superstar Graham, and who once managed George Steele, says, "Steele is a worthy opponent. But Superstar would beat Steele, because he's stronger, smarter and I manage Superstar. I know Steele like a book. Steele would prove very tough indeed, but Graham would endure."

George Steele has been known to use a taped weapon during many of his matches. But both Steele and his manager Captain Lou Albano deny that. Says Albano, "My champion need not resort to cheap methods like using a taped weapon. Steele has used a weapon in his matches, but only because his opponents bring in the weapon first. Steele only fights fire with fire."

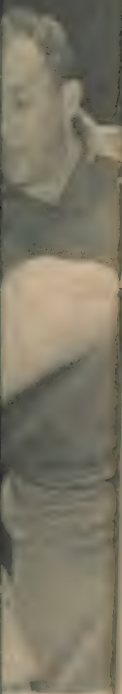
Steele adds, "Hey, listen, Daddy, I don't need anything but my great wrestling skill. I've beaten the best with what I have. The Captain speaks true about my opponents hiding weapons during a match and then planting them on me. I use the weapon because they would use it on me. I'm only defending myself."

George Steele pleads innocent to bringing in and using any weapon. Yet many wrestlers claim differently. The wrestling fans have seen Steele brutalize opponents with weapons. They have seen him go on rampage after rampage, injuring opponents with weapons.

Surely George Steele is most maniacal in that ring. Surely he loves to injure opponents. Is he responsible for his actions? Is his nickname, the Animal, as suitable for him as it seems to be? It seems so.

George Steele says, "I'm not an animal. I'm aggressive in my matches. I don't care how I win, but win I do. I don't need weapons. I'm sane. I'm not an animal. I'm a great wrestler who'll be champion someday. Animals don't win matches; they belong on a farm. My opponents fear me because they are jealous of me. I'm the best, Daddy."





Right: George Steele poses for our photographer prior to a match.

Below: George Steele and that ever present taped weapon find their mark against Bruno Sammartino.



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Continued from page 17

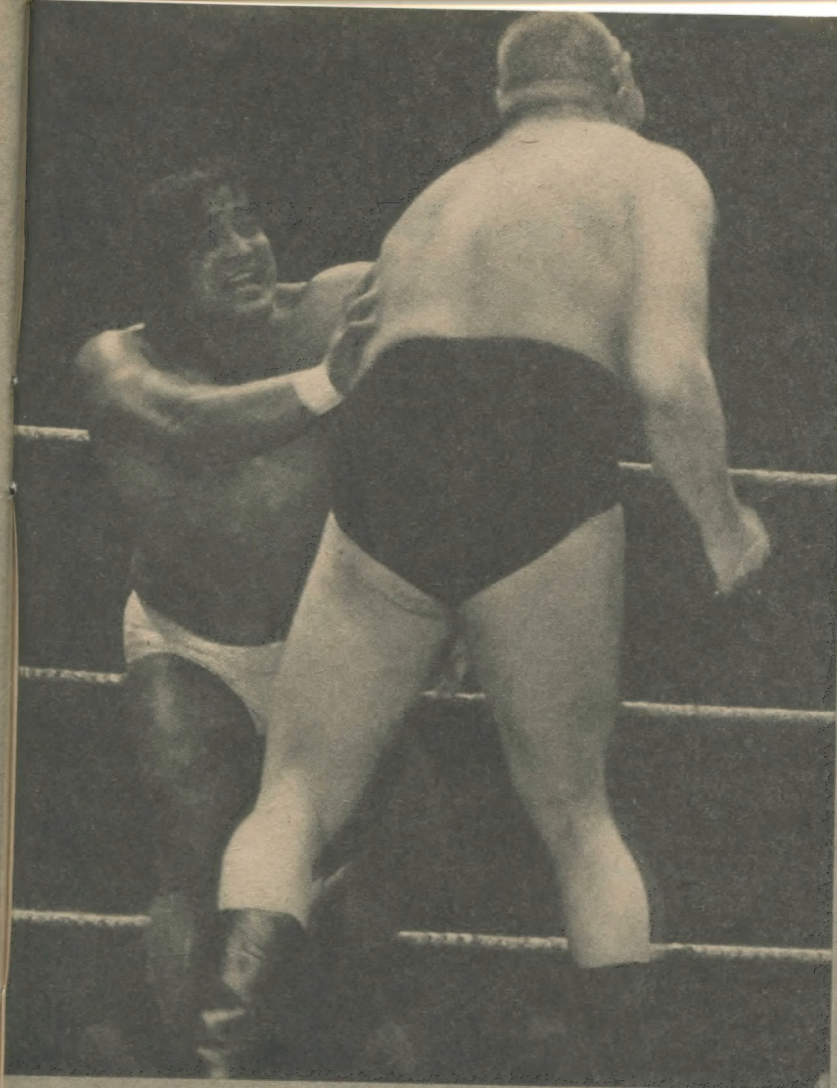
Chief Maivia comments, "There are champions who do this. Again, they have no pride. They would do anything to keep their belt. I couldn't do that. Yes, these champions are wrong, but his belt shouldn't be turned over to his opponent. An opponent should try to get that victory before the champion gets himself disqualified or counted out. Perhaps if a governing body warns the champion if he persists in that manner they would have no alternative but to strip him of that title, then I could see that."

Another matter that irks the Samoan mat star is wrestlers who try to injure their opponents on purpose. Says Maivia, "This is not sportsmanship. There has to be something wrong with wrestlers who injure their opponents for the pleasure of it. Like George Steele; The Sheik; Ox Baker; Baron Scicluna; Blackjack Lanza and others of that type. They use hidden weapons. They use chairs, chains, loaded elbow pads and

Left: Maivia takes pleasure in applying pressure to the neck of big Nikolai Volkoff.

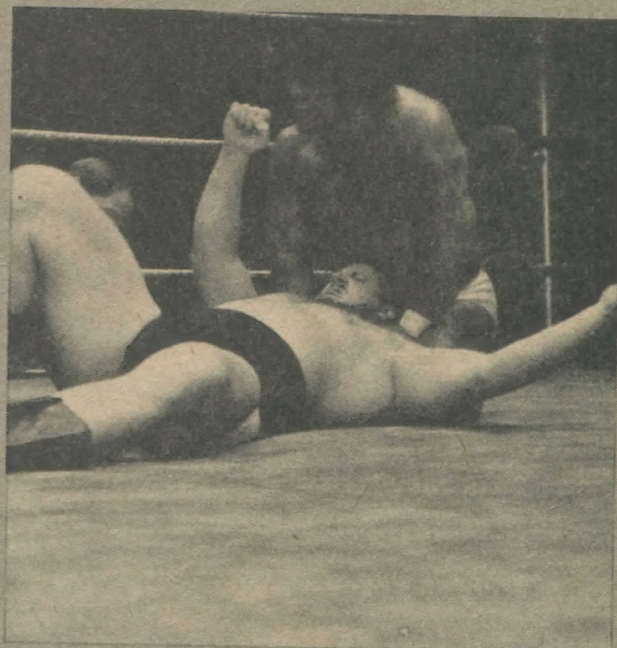
Volkoff gets revenge on Chief Peter Maivia, hurting the Chief so that he cries out in pain.





Left: On the attack, Chief Peter Maivia jolts his opponent, Nikolai Volkoff.

Below: Maivia gives arch-enemy Volkoff a good going-over.

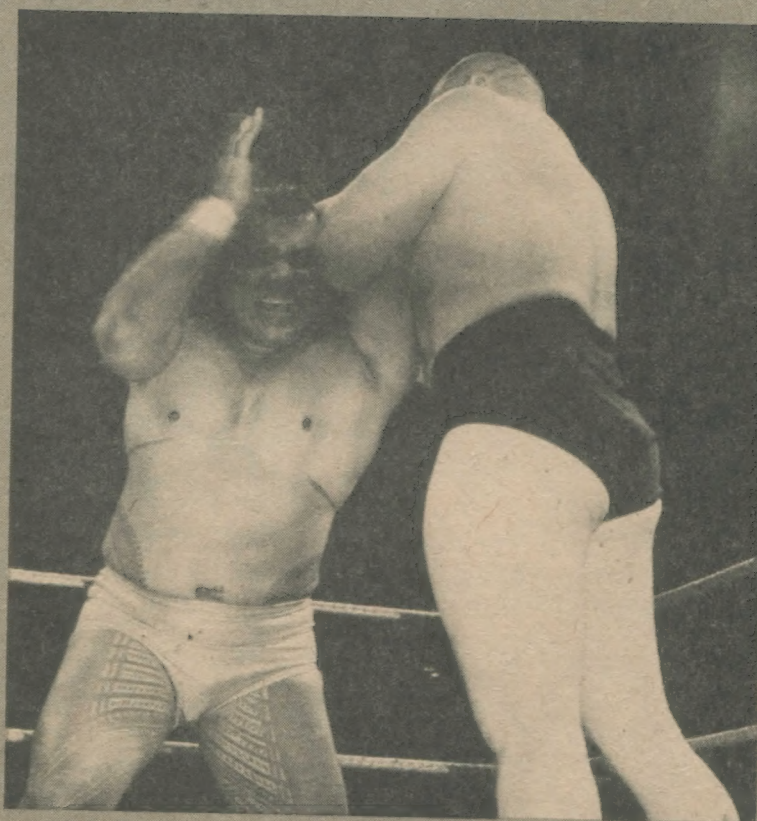


whatever. They must feel awfully inferior in ability to resort to weapons. These wrestlers should be banned or fined, or both. There is no need for this type of wrestling."

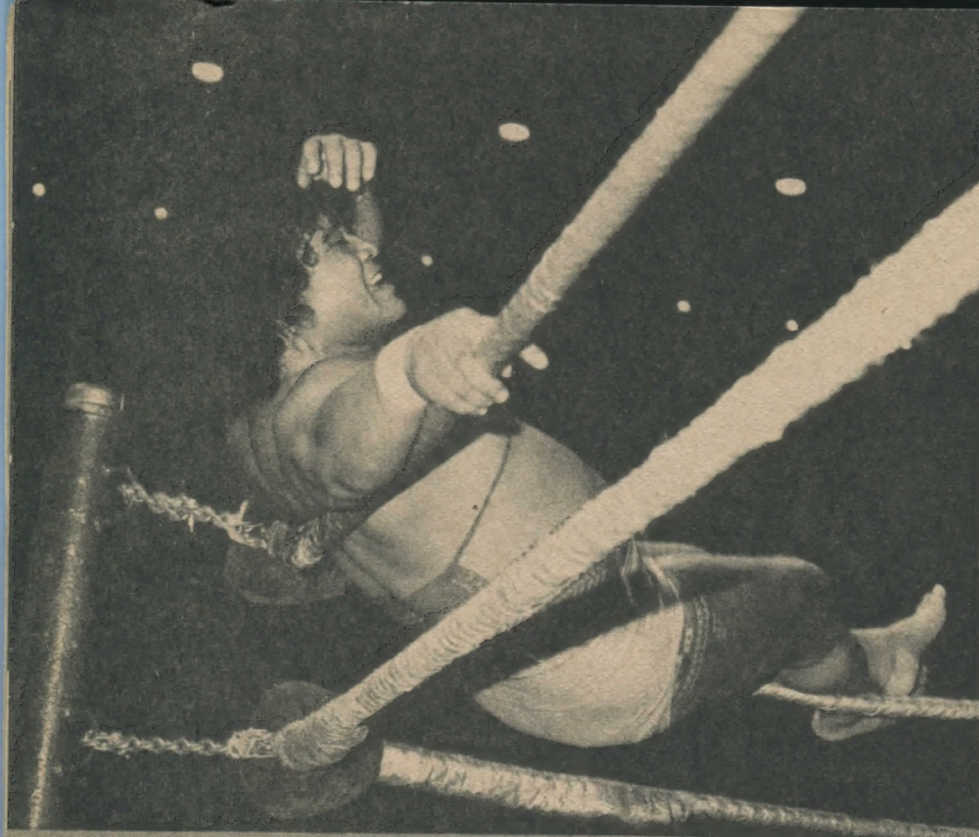
High Chief Peter Maivia has wrestled all over the U.S.A. He has travelled to Europe; Asia; Australia; Canada and New Zealand. Wherever he appears, Chief Maivia wows the fans. Along the way, he has won title after title. Some of the most notable of these are: U.S. Champion; co-holder of the U.S. Tag Team Championship three times; Texas Champion; All-Asian Champion; International Champion.

In the ring, Chief Peter Maivia wears colorful, authentic costumes of his native Samoa. Says Maivia, "These costumes were made for me when I became full chief of Samoa. They are representative of my station to my people. They are all handmade and quite expensive. I would feel very sorry for any wrestler who tried to destroy my costumes. I won't go into what I would do about it, but you get my message."

When Chief Maivia removes his costume, he wears colorful trunks. But more colorful are the tattoos



Chief Peter Maivia and Nikolai Volkoff put their strength to the test, trying for the upper hand.



Taking things easy during the match, Chief Peter Maivia rests on the upper ropes. This drives his opponents into a frenzy.



Referee Danny Barfield raises the victor's hand. The winner is, of course, Chief Peter Maivia.

which cover Maivia.

What is even more extraordinary is the ceremony in which Maivia had the tattooing done. Says Maivia, "This tattoo ceremony actually should be done during a six-month time element. I insisted it be done in two days! It wasn't done with regular tattooing needles. It was done in

Samoa by tribal chiefs using bones of animals! It is very painful; I insisted it be done in a short time. Again, the tattoos are representative of my station of chief."

During his stay in the WWF areas, Chief Peter Maivia has wrestled top talent. He holds victories

over such names as: Nikolai Volkoff; Baron Mikel Scicluna; George Steele; Stan Stasiak; Baron Fritz Von Raschke and Ken Patera.

Maivia has teamed with Chief Jay Strongbow; Haystacks Calhoun; Tony Garea; Larry Zbyszko and Bob Backlund, with great success. He prefers single competition but doesn't mind tag team bouts. Says Maivia, "In single competition, it pits my wrestling ability against another. My wrestling style against my opponent. I feel I can do more on my own. I have my own maneuvers and ways of doing things. Sometimes in tag matches, you are hampered by having a partner. Also, in tag teams you constantly have to watch your back. You can lose much concentration. During a match, you must be very alert. But having an excellent partner helps tremendously."

High Chief Peter Maivia uses his Samoan Coco Butt for a pet finisher. Another move is his flying trip-out, in which he upends his opponent by the legs and uses a cradle in one motion. Still another, is his Samoan Stump. Maivia does this hold by forcing his opponent into a sitting position. He places his legs over the opponent's shoulders forcing the body forward. Then he takes one leg and lifts it.

Maivia says, "I've never failed with this hold. It causes extreme pain from the neck, back, spine and legs. No wrestler has ever broken free of this hold. I've perfected it."

Perfection. That is the key word in explaining High Chief Peter Maivia. He applies his holds so easily that it all seems very casual. He uses his six feet and 280 pounds with the mobility of a lighter wrestler. Wrestling sans shoes Maivia can use his feet in Karate kicks with the best.

Maivia comments, "I never believe in using unnecessary motion. If you are in a match for thirty minutes or more, you must preserve your strength. The longer the match, the more exertion you will use. Getting tired has cost wrestlers many matches they could have won. Eating the right foods helps. Getting the proper rest helps, but sometimes a hectic schedule gets in the way of proper rest. Staying in top physical condition is a must. My matches may look easy, but doing it right makes it look so. I enjoy wrestling and doing the job right. The fans really appreciate it. I also appreciate getting the job done the right way."

You can't knock success. High Chief Peter Maivia has been very successful in his mat career. Someday he might even be world champion. "I would like that very much," says Maivia. "It is my dream. The first Samoan world champion. I like it."

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